

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جوردان تايمز مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية "الراي"

Nitze briefs Bonn on missile talks

BONN (R) — The chief U.S. negotiator at American-Soviet talks on medium-range nuclear missiles briefed the Bonn government Monday amid signs of disarray on the issue in West Germany's ruling coalition. Paul Nitze, who resumes the talks in Geneva on Thursday, briefed Defence Minister Manfred Woerner and disarmament experts on the state of the negotiations and was due to meet conservative Chancellor Helmut Kohl later Monday. NATO plans to deploy new U.S. medium-range missiles in West Europe later this year have become a central theme in the heated campaign for a West German general election on March 6.

Volume 8 Number 2171

AMMAN, TUESDAY JANUARY 25, 1983 — RABIA THANI 11, 1403

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

King, Queen to visit Belgium

AMMAN (Petra) — The Royal Court announced on Monday that His Majesty King Hussein and Her Majesty Queen Noor will pay a three-day official visit to Belgium on Jan. 26 at the invitation of King Baudouin and Queen Fabiola. During the visit, King Hussein will have talks with the Belgian monarch, prime minister and high-ranking officials. The Royal Court announcement said an official delegation including high-ranking officials will accompany the King to Belgium.

Fateh to hold meeting in Aden on Jan. 28

AMMAN (Petra) — The revolutionary council of the Palestine National Liberation Movement, Fateh, will hold a meeting in Aden on Jan. 28. Officials of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) office in Amman said the meeting is of special significance because it "would draw up the strategy of the Fateh movement in the next meeting of the Palestine National Council" (PNC). The revolutionary council earlier endorsed the meetings between His Majesty King Hussein and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and talks to reach a form of confederation between the PLO and Jordan. Sources in the PLO Amman office said the PLO executive committee and the general secretaries are expected to hold an extended meeting in Aden in the next two days.

Tareq Aziz replaces Hammadi as foreign minister

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraqi Foreign Minister Saddam Hammadi has been relieved of his post and replaced by Deputy prime minister Tareq Aziz, Baghdad Radio reported Monday. A decree issued by the Revolutionary Command Council (RCC) appointed Dr. Hammadi as minister of state at the presidential office. The decree, announced by Baghdad Radio, gave no reason for the change but it was believed to be due to Dr. Hammadi's illness. Dr. Hammadi has been out of Iraq for medical treatment for the past two months. The nature of his illness was not known. He had been foreign minister since 1974.

Turkish cargo ship sinks in Black Sea

ANKARA (R) — A Turkish cargo ship sank in the Black Sea off the coastal town of Unye early Monday and all 11 crew were missing, the semi-official Anatolian News Agency said. The 750-ton cargo ship Kapitan Hasan Hantal was carrying iron ore from Istanbul to the Black Sea town of Hopa when she sank in a heavy storm, the agency said.

Irish soldier charged with killing 3 comrades in UNIFIL

DUBLIN (R) — An Irish soldier has been charged with murdering three comrades shot on duty with the United Nations Truce Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), the army said Sunday night. The charge follows inquiries in Lebanon into the deaths of Corp. Gregory Morrow and privates Peter Burke and Thomas Murphy in a deserted valley near the village of Tefnina last October, a spokesman said.

Earthquake hits S.E. Mexico

MEXICO CITY (R) — A strong earthquake measuring 6.6 on the open-ended Richter scale rocked southeastern Mexico early Monday but there were no immediate reports of casualties or serious damage, Mexican officials said. The Mexican Meteorological Institute said the quake occurred at 2:18 a.m. (0818 GMT) and its epicentre was located off the Pacific coast of Oaxaca and Chiapas states. The quake was also felt in Mexico City where it measured 3.4 on the Richter scale, an institute spokesman said.

Explosion injures 1 Israeli soldier

Blast rocks Khalde as talks resume

KHALDE, Lebanon (R) — A rocket exploded Monday close to a hotel where Lebanese, Israeli and U.S. negotiators were gathering for talks on the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon.

One Israeli soldier was slightly injured but there was apparently no damage to the hotel and the talks went ahead as planned.

The rocket smashed into a shop on the ground floor of a war-scarred apartment block about 400 metres from the hotel, blowing metal shutters into the street and smashing windows.

Israeli officers found shrapnel in the ruins which they said indicated the projectile had been a Katyusha rocket of the type commonly used by Palestinian commandos and Lebanese militiamen.

The officers said the rocket appeared to have been fired from an area of Beirut under the control of a U.S.-French-Italian peacekeeping force.

There have been a series of accusations that anti-Israeli commandos are operating from behind the Multinational Force's lines.

A spokesman for the U.S. Marines, who patrol the area of Beirut closest to Khalde, said American forces had not detected any firing from their sector.

Captain Dale Dye added: "We consider it very unlikely that it

ferences between Lebanon and Israel on several topics and by the apparent failure of recent diplomatic efforts by U.S. special envoy Philip Habib.

Lebanese negotiators, who have seen their position substantially supported by Mr. Habib, took a tough line Monday on Israeli demands for special security arrangements in South Lebanon and normal relations between Israel and Lebanon.

A Lebanese spokesman said Lebanese chief delegate Antoine Fattal had explained his country's position on the Israeli demands "which Lebanon cannot accept without exposing its internal and external situation to crisis and danger."

The spokesman did not spell out what the Israeli demands were.

But Lebanese official sources said the main problem was that Israel was asking for early warning stations in South Lebanon manned by its own experts. The Lebanese regard the proposal as infringing on their sovereignty and bound to provoke opposition both within Lebanon and from its neighbour, Syria.

Syria has indicated it may not pull its troops out of north and east Lebanon if it is not satisfied with the conditions for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the south.

There were also signs that Israel and Lebanon were continuing to



Israeli soldiers inspect damaged shop after a Katyusha rocket hit the building injuring an Israeli soldier during talks in Khalde Monday. (AP wirephoto)

disagree about the nature of future relations between them.

The Lebanese spokesman said that Mr. Fattal had put forward "the framework for a protocol regulating relations" and the negotiators had then gone on to

discuss security arrangements for South Lebanon.

But an Israeli spokesman said his government was still insisting on "good neighbourly relations", a formula implying a closeness of ties which Lebanon is resisting.

OPEC ministers fail to agree on prices

GENEVA (R) — OPEC ministers Monday failed to agree on how to tackle the world oil glut, plunging the exporter group deeper into crisis.

Refusal by Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to accept output quotas without price concessions by African producers led to what ministers described as the complete failure of two days of crisis talks in Geneva.

The break-up of the meeting raised the immediate possibility of Saudi Arabia and other Gulf producers cutting prices to compete with what they regard as unfair competition by their partners in the 13-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

The failure also injected a new note of bitterness into the ideological conflict between Saudi Arabia and Iran.

Iranian Oil Minister Moham-

mad Gharazi told a press conference Saudi Arabia had lost most of its friends in OPEC and added Saudi Arabia would not cut its price. "This is a hollow bluff," he said.

Mr. Gharazi said: "It is the people of Saudi Arabia that participate in OPEC and we must defend them and their deprived people."

"We have also succeeded in breaking the political power of Saudi Arabia which stems from oil."

Saudi Oil Minister Sheikh Ahmad Zaki Yamani told a press conference there would now be increasing pressure on prices charged by OPEC and non-OPEC exporters alike.

He said: "Maybe there will be a little cut in the price of our (Saudi) oil with the others agreeing on it. But we do not want a price war because this is harmful."

He predicted North Sea oil prices, charged by Britain and Norway, would be cut by at least two to three dollars a barrel in the next few days, putting further pressure on OPEC.

Sheikh Yamani said Saudi Arabia would, however, take action to prevent a collapse of

would stimulate demand for OPEC oil but would also put some high-cost fields in the North Sea and elsewhere out of production.

The break-up of the meeting followed initial optimism that the 13-member organisation was nearing agreement Sunday on a package deal of measures to cope with dwindling demand for its oil.

Ministers said that, as part of the deal, OPEC was to have lowered its global output ceiling to 17.5 million barrels, a million down on a figure fixed in Vienna last month.

Delegates Sunday believed they might also be near to solving the vexed question of production quotas for individual members.

The talks were finally torpedoed by the Gulf states' insistence that African producers should increase the differentials charged for their top quality crudes, in order to make the currently high-priced Gulf oils more competitive.

OPEC President Mallam Yahya Dikko told a press conference that 11 members initially agreed to a Nigerian proposal for an overall output ceiling of 17.5

Bethlehem mayor arrives in Egypt

CAIRO (R) — Bethlehem mayor Ali Khalifa Al Sabah arrived in Egypt Monday on his first visit to Egypt and told reporters he was ready, if asked, to join a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation in peace talks.

The Palestinian leader, who arrived from Amman for talks with Egyptian leaders, praised Egypt's peace drive which he said had led to recovery of the Sinai peninsula from Israel.

He said Egypt: "Has challenged Israel with peace... I hope the Arabs move with the same method particularly the Jordanians and Palestinians to break the deadlock."

Without negotiations or political moves the situation would not change and "our people will continue suffering under the Israeli occupation," said Mr. Freij.

Mr. Freij said Arab differences would not help the Palestine cause.

Mr. Freij said he hoped to meet President Hosni Mubarak to explain the situation in the Israeli-occupied Arab territories.

The mayor's visit, expected to last two weeks, takes place 48 hours before Mr. Mubarak leaves for the U.S., Canada, Britain and France for talks on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Parts of Cosmos 1402 enter Earth's atmosphere

WASHINGTON (R) — A chunk of the Soviet nuclear-powered satellite Cosmos 1402 weighing several thousand kilograms plunged harmlessly into the earth's atmosphere over the Indian Ocean Sunday, U.S. officials said Monday.

They said they believed the main piece of the 3,600 kilogram satellite burned up as it tumbled to earth.

U.S. ships and planes around the world have been ordered to monitor radiation levels in the atmosphere.

The officials hope that the satellite's nuclear fuel rods, potentially more dangerous than what hit the earth's atmosphere at 2221 GMT on Sunday, will burn up as the rest of Cosmos 1402 drops from the sky.

Pope John Paul signs new code of church law today

VATICAN CITY (R) — Pope John Paul will Tuesday sign a new code of church law which for the first time in 65 years updates rules governing the lives of millions of Roman Catholics.

The Pope has studied every one of the 1,764 canons or rules which aim to bring church practice in line with reforms decided by the 1962-65 second Vatican council.

The final text will not be published by the Vatican until Tuesday, but some of the 200 jurists and theologians involved in the revision say it increases the importance of non-clerical Catholics, including women, and decentralises church authority.

Venezuelan Archbishop Jose Rosendo Castillo told reporters that after signing the seven-volume code Tuesday the Pope would probably solemnise its promulgation on Feb. 3, the day after a consistory to create 18 new cardinals.

But it will not come into force for six to eight months, the time required for church leaders to learn and digest the new regulations, he added.

Catholics who become freemasons or join anti-church organisations would no longer face automatic excommunication but the supreme sanction still applied to "apostates," Archbishop Lara told reporters accredited to the Vatican.

The late Pope Pius XII introduced this category of heretics in the 1950s in an effort to stem the growing power of the Communist Party in post-war Italy.

Nowadays thousands of Italian Communists see no conflict between their church baptismal vows and political views, but observers said the Pope had evidently retained some of Pope Pius's wording which reflected his own attacks on atheism.

Problems of interpretation have

led to calls by many churchmen, including some in the Vatican, for the creation of a pontifical commission to issue guidelines during the six to eight month assimilation period, Archbishop Lara said.

The revised code echoes traditional Catholic doctrine excluding women from the priesthood and from taking formal part in divine service such as serving at the altar.

Archbishop Lara is pro-president of the pontifical commission which has met periodically for the last 17 years to revise canon law for the first time since it was introduced in 1917.

The revision carries 650 fewer rules than the original and reduces from 42 to six the offences which carry automatic excommunication, the church's supreme penalty.

The offences include profanation of the eucharist, organising or freely submitting to abor-

tion, and the ordination of priests without permission of the holy see.

French Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre, the rebel prelate who opposes reforms of the Vatican Council, still theoretically faces exclusion from the Catholic Church under this canon, Vatican observers noted.

Another offence in this category is an attack on the Pope by a Catholic of sane mind. Turkish gunman Mehmet Ali Agca, who was convicted to shooting the pontiff in St. Peter's Square in 1981, was a Muslim.

However women will be allowed to join the panel of ecclesiastical courts and diocesan chancelleries and to help judge requests for the annulment of marriage.

The Venezuelan prelate said the new code embodied the Vatican Council's "revolutionary concept" of making all Catholics

'Israel can't ignore Syrian missiles'

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Israel said Monday it could not be expected to ignore a serious threat to its security that it said was posed by the deployment of long-range anti-aircraft missiles by Syria. Israeli ambassador Yehuda Blum said in a letter to the president of the Security Council that it was well known that Syria had been engaged in a "deliberate policy of beefing up its already formidable military arsenal through the introduction in recent weeks of long-range Soviet missiles." These were capable of penetrating deep into the airspace of neighbouring countries and Syria was thus intentionally escalating the arms race in a region already replete with conflicts and tensions, he said in the letter, published Monday.

Hussein returns after Gulf talks

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein returned home on Monday from Oman at the end of an Arab tour which also included Kuwait, Qatar, and Bahrain.

During the tour, King Hussein acquainted the leaders of these Arab countries with the Jordanian efforts on the Arab and international levels. He also reviewed with them joint Arab action on the international level and the Arab efforts to achieve just, durable and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

King Hussein was met at the airport by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, National Consultative Council (NCC) Speaker Suleiman Arar, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zeid, Commander-in-Chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces Lt.-Gen. Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, ministers, the charge d'affaires of the coun-

tries he visited and high-ranking Jordanian officials.

The official delegation which accompanied the King on his tour also returned home with him.

Meanwhile, Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusuf Al Alawi said King Hussein's talks with Sultan Qaboos Ibn Sa'id "showed identity of views on the future steps which should be taken on the international level to reach a peaceful settlement of the Middle East problem."

"The Jordanian and Omani sides discussed the current situation and affirmed that the settlement should ensure the liberation of the occupied Arab territories and the regaining of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights," he added.

The two sides also emphasised the need for Lebanon's unity, and sovereignty on all its territories.

Habib leaves for U.S.

TEL AVIV (R) — U.S. special envoy Philip Habib left for Washington Monday after failing to bring Israel and Lebanon closer to agreement on an Israeli troop withdrawal and future relations between the two countries.

Mr. Habib had spent more than a week in the Middle East conferring with Israeli and Lebanese leaders in an effort to spur on the month-long negotiations in Khalde, south of Beirut, and the Israeli border town of Kiryat Shmona.

Israeli officials said the Habib talks had made no progress.

In Cairo, Egyptian officials said Mr. Habib told the Egyptian government Monday of the outcome of his talks in Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and Israel.

Officials said the information was contained in a message to Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hassan Ali from Mr. Habib. Mr. Habib visited Cairo on Saturday and had talks with President Hosni Mubarak.

W. German opposition leader unveils shadow cabinet

BONN (R) — West Germany's opposition Social Democratic (SPD) candidate for chancellor, Hans-Jochen Vogel, Monday unveiled a shadow cabinet of 14 potential ministers who would form a new government if his party won the March 6 general election.

Though Mr. Vogel refused to attach a particular name to any given ministry at this stage, he

clearly indicated some of the favourites in a briefing for journalists.

Egon Bahr, 60, a veteran politician who was the architect of the 1972 Moscow trade treaty between West Germany and the Soviet Union, and the treaty the following year establishing relations between East and West Germany, emerged as a strong candidate for Foreign Minister.

Portuguese government rejects general elections

LISBON (R) — Portugal was Monday thrown into complete political confusion after the outgoing right-wing government refused to collaborate with a presidential plan to call early general elections.

President Antonio Ramalho Eanes Sunday night announced he would dissolve parliament and hold a snap election as soon as the caretaker cabinet of Prime Minister Francisco Pinto Balsemão had

tackled the country's most pressing problems.

Socialist and Communist opposition and trade unions welcomed this decision but Mr. Balsemão, who resigned last month, Monday said the president would have to find another solution.

Mr. Balsemão told reporters he would not walk out of his job but that as a caretaker premier he was not in a position to take major decisions.

Libya, Romania sign friendship treaty

VIENNA (R) — Libya and Romania signed treaties of friendship and scientific cooperation Monday, the official Romanian News Agency Agerpres said.

Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi later left Bucharest by air after signing the treaties with Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu at the end of an official four-day visit to Romania, the agency said.

The friendship treaty was the third reported pact between Libya and a communist-bloc country, following agreements signed with Czechoslovakia last autumn and with Bulgaria during a five-day visit to Sofia by Col. Qadhafi last week.

Agerpres also said Romanian Prime Minister Constantin Dascalescu and Jaddallah Azzouz Talti, secretary-general of the Libyan General People's Committee signed a trade agreement for 1983 between their countries.

The agency did not say where Col. Qadhafi was going from Romania.

In an interview published Monday by the Paris newspaper Le Matin, Col. Qadhafi said that Libya was not planning a fresh military incursion into the Central African country of Chad.

"We are not prepared to act as the policemen or the protectors of Chad," Col. Qadhafi said at a meeting earlier this month with

reporters from Le Matin, the French-based magazine Jeune Afrique and the American magazine Newsweek.

"So we don't want to intervene, but equally we are opposed to intervention by any other foreign power in Chad," he added.

Libyan forces moved into Chad in December, 1980, to fight alongside then President Goukouni Oueddei's army against rebels led by dissident ex-Defence Minister Hissene Habre. Last June, Mr. Habre ousted Mr. Oueddei and became president.

In October, Libya helped install Mr. Oueddei as head of a rival government in Bardai, northern Chad, sparking fears that the 17-year-old civil war in Chad was about to flare up again.

Col. Qadhafi told the reporters in the interview this month: "It is not true that we are preparing a new intervention in Chad."

Asked what would happen if Mr. Oueddei asked for help in the form of another incursion, the Libyan leader said: "He has done so and we refused."

Col. Qadhafi was quoted as saying that Libya was prepared to cooperate with France in a programme of aid for Africa.

He envisaged the establishment of a joint French, Arab and Libyan aid policy.

NCC okays amendments to conscription law

By Lamis Andoni
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The National Consultative Council (NCC) in its regular session Monday approved four amendments to the compulsory military service law.

The amendments, suggested by the government, allow male Jordanian students to continue their education until they obtain a post-graduate degree before conscription, but limit the maximum age in such cases to 27.

The council also approved a draft law amending the public security law, ratified a draft law approving loan agreement concluded between Jordan and the Kuwaiti Fund for Arab Economic Development and passed seven articles of the draft traffic law for 1983.

During the discussions on the amendments to the military law, the council's Legal Committee recommended that students may be allowed to continue their education without restricting the academic degrees to specified areas and thus enabling "outstanding and excellent students" to obtain their doctorates.

The committee also recommended that the age limit be extended to 27.

Although the recommendations won the support of the council, some members voiced their objection to the amendment as well as to the committee's recommendation on the grounds that it only benefits the "financially better-off students who can afford to pursue their higher education."

Members, who expressed their rejection, also pointed out that the amendment will have a negative effect on the country's national objective to build itself-strength.

Acting Prime Minister and Information Minister Adnan Abu Odeh said the government's suggestion to amend the current compulsory military service law stemmed from its conviction that "good students should be given an opportunity to obtain their masters degree, especially that a masters degree is of special significance for those who study social sciences and humanities."

The other amendments stipulate that, in the case of students who go to universities where the duration of study spans upwards of five years, the age limit should be 28.

It also states that the conscription can be postponed if the student is willing to obtain his master degree, and that, in case of violations of the law, the military council is entitled to change the original penalty by extending a conscript's service to coincide with the length of the sentence.

The NCC also approved a draft law amending the public security law. The new amendments aim at improving the conditions of public security personnel.

According to the new law "an officer who is pensioned off is entitled to a sum equal to the total salaries and allowances for the duration of the privileged leaves of two full years in addition to the benefits he is entitled to by the pension."

As for the officer whose service is terminated, he shall be entitled to a sum equalling salaries and

allowances on the period of the leaves which he could have earned had he stayed in service.

The amendments also extend the annual vacations of public security personnel to 30 days from 14, and maternity leave for female employees to 40 days from 30.

The council discussed and passed seven more articles of the draft traffic law for 1983.

Article number 12 of the traffic law, which was discussed in a previous session, proved again to be controversial. According to the article "if a construction vehicle is misused in violation of registration laws, the owner shall be fined double the registration fee and, if the violation was repeated, the licence of the vehicle will be rescinded."

The point of disagreement among members was whether the owner or the driver of the vehicle should be prosecuted in case of any violation of the registration law.

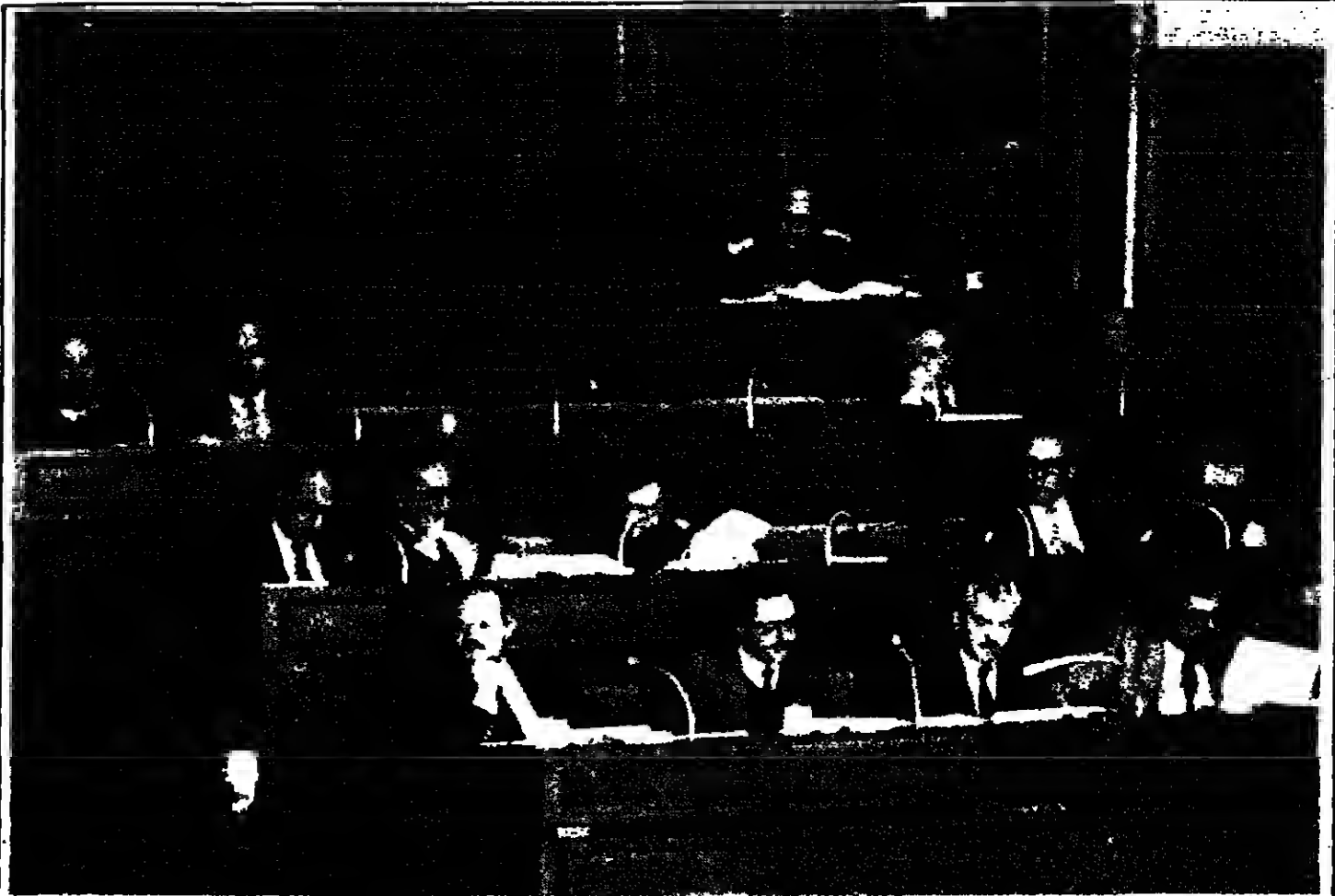
The article was referred to the council's Legal Committee for its "reformulation."

Other articles approved stipulated that cargo trucks should not be used for the transportation of workers except in special cases with permission from concerned authorities.

Some members argued that in many cases, especially in farms, the owners are obliged to use the trucks as means of transportation for agricultural workers. Some others stressed that transporting workers in cargo trucks is "against traffic security laws and degrading human dignity."

Minister of Interior Ahmad Obaidat said that the ministry favours the limitation of the use of cargo trucks and vehicles to carry workers.

The discussion of the draft traffic law will continue in the next session.



Cabinet members attend Monday's session of the National Consultative Council (Petra photo)

Soviet friendship delegation ends visit

AMMAN (Petra) — A Soviet delegation, representing the Soviet societies of friendship and cultural relations with foreign countries left Amman Monday at the end of a visit to Jordan which lasted several days.

Alexi Sakharov, who headed the delegation, said in a pre-departure statement that the delegation's visit to Jordan and the conclusion of a cooperation and cultural exchange agreement between Jordan and the Soviet Union is "an advanced step" towards developing and strengthening of the friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

Mr. Sakharov, chairman of the Soviet-Jordanian Friendship Society, also said his meetings with Jordanian officials were beneficial and that they exchanged views on various issues of interest to the two countries.

Amman Municipality attends meeting on city planning

AMMAN (Petra) — The director-general of the Public Works Department in Amman Municipality, Sami Al Rashid, returned to Amman Sunday after participating in a conference on city planning and development of services which ended in Geneva on Jan. 21.

Participants in the four-day conference discussed several topics related to financing, implementation, planning, design, development and the use of modern technology in projects. Experts from the World Bank were also present to deliver lectures and submit research papers on the topics of financing public services in developing countries, and housing projects for low-income families.

Water reserves reported nearing full capacity

AMMAN (Petra) — Director of the dams department at the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) Zafar Al Alem said that the amount of water gathered in the country's dams during this season has totalled 14.3 million cubic metres.

He added that the quantity of water stored in King Talal Dam totals 39.5 million cubic metres, and the dam is now expected to reach its full storage capacity of 48 million cubic metres.

Mr. Alem added that today 1.5 million cubic metres of water are stored in Wadi Shu'ayb Dam this season, 15 million cubic metres in Al Kufra Dam, and 1.8 cubic metres in Ziqlab Dam.

Mr. Alem expressed hope that all dams would reach full storage capacity given the volume of rain expected to fall in the future.

ACII plans compressor plant in Irbid

BAGHDAD (Petra) — The Arab Company for Industrial Investments (ACII) plans to set up a factory in Irbid to manufacture air compressors, ACII Director-General Zuhair Qaddouri said here Monday.

In a statement to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, in Baghdad, Mr. Qaddouri said that the planned project will be part of the ACII's programme to set up various

industries in the Arab World.

These projects include factories to manufacture electric generators, household appliances, telephone cables, electric stations, forklifts, bulldozers, pipes, railway wagons, trucks and heavy equipment, Mr. Qaddouri said.

He said that nine projects have been already been launched in various Arab countries and several others will be launched soon.

The ACII, which has a capital of 150 million Iraqi dinars, is willing to consider industrial projects proposed by specialised Arab organisations, Mr. Qaddouri said.

Jordan is contributing 1.5 million Iraqi dinars to the ACII capital while Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Libya, Syria, Morocco, Tunis, the Yemee Arab Republic and Qatar contribute the rest.

Civil Defence Directorate reports 14 flood cases in Zarqa

ZARQA (Petra) — Zarqa District Civil Defence Director Lt. Col. Dib Ma'ani said Monday that his department handled 14 incidents in the last two days most involving flooding of residences.

However, there was no casualties or damage, he said. The Civil Defence Directorate is on standby in case the Zarqa River flood its banks. To this end, a team from the directorate is patrolling houses and industrial establishments on both sides of the river, he said.

On the other hand, Zarqa District Agriculture Director Mas'oud Al Zuhair said this season has been one of the best for rainfall in the last five years.

Safety team meets

Meanwhile, Zarqa District Officer Saleem Al Oudat said that the district's Public Safety Committee discussed in a meeting held Monday ways of coping with the problems resulting from the unprecedented rainfall in the district.

He said no significant incidents took place during the rainfall and all roads to and from the city are fit for traffic.

Agriculture official off to Geneva

AMMAN (Petra) — Agriculture Ministry Under-Secretary Saleem Al Lawzi left Amman for Hungary Monday for a 10-day visit. During the trip he will hold working meetings and visit agricultural research centres and cooperatives.

The visit comes in response to an invitation of the Arab League's Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development (AOAD). The invitations have been extended to a number of agriculture ministry under-secretaries in Arab countries which are considered advanced in the sphere of technical and managerial skills in the field of agriculture.

Youth Welfare Corporation to mark Arbor Day

AMMAN (Petra) — The Youth Welfare Corporation plans to organise two days of tree-planting ceremonies, one at the Martyrs Monument area and the second in the children's forest in Jerash. Members of youth centres in Salt, Madaba, Zarqa and Mafrq will take part.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Arab committee to review programme of agricultural cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — An Arab working committee entrusted with preparing the executive studies for a programme of Arab agricultural coordination and integration will begin at the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) here Tuesday. The aim of the meetings is to increase the effectiveness of Arab agricultural organisations and to implement the proposed programme for agricultural coordination and integration among Arab countries. Experts from the CAEU and from the Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development, and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, will participate in the meetings.

New tobacco cooperative formed

MADABA (Petra) — A new cooperative society specialising in tobacco cultivation was registered here Monday. The aim of the society is to give advice to tobacco farmers in the district, according to a society spokesman. A sum of JD 400,000 has been allocated to implement the goals of the society aimed at persuading farmers to use scientific methods in tobacco cultivation, the spokesman added.

Swiss trade team to visit Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — A Swiss trade delegation is expected to pay a visit to Jordan on Feb. 18 with the aim of discussing ways to strengthen economic and trade relations between Jordan and Switzerland. A meeting was held Monday at the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce (FJCC) to discuss arrangements related to the visit. The Swiss delegation will be headed by a representative of the Swiss government and will include other Swiss officials and businessmen.

New orphanage in Zarqa

ZARQA (Petra) — Construction work of a children's home, with a capacity of 20, has been completed in the Zarqa area, the head of the Omar Ibn Al Khattab Charitable Society, Rushdi Al Deek, said Monday. The society will run the children's home, the first of its kind in the district, will provide accommodation, food, clothes and schooling for its children. Mr. Deek appealed to citizens in the area to give aid and assistance to the home to enable it to perform its tasks successfully.

Finland sends imports bulletin

AMMAN (Petra) — The Amman Chamber of Industry Monday received a bulletin, published by the commercial section of Finland's Foreign Ministry. The bulletin, which details import regulations in Finland, also includes a list of the countries from which imports are permitted, including Jordan. The list also includes the types of goods and commodities which Finland is currently importing.



National Consultative Council (NCC) in session Monday (Petra photo)

Communications seminar ends at RSS

AMMAN (Petra) — A seminar on communications, organised by the Royal Scientific Society (RSS), in cooperation with the Kuwaiti Institute for Scientific Research, ended here Monday. Participants in the three-day seminar received lectures on advanced methods of personal contacts, both written and spoken, as well as organising large meetings. In particular, the aim of

the seminar is to develop its participants aptitude for making and developing personal contacts within their everyday work.

At the end of the seminar, RSS Director-General Albert Butros made a speech calling on the participants to apply what they learned in the seminar to their future work.



yal Scientific Society Director-General Albert Butros congratulates a participant of a seminar on

advanced methods of communications which concluded Monday (Petra photo)

VACANCIES

A newly-established Amman-based company has vacancies for the following staff:

- * Accountant/Administrator
- * Salesmen
- * Storekeeper
- * Secretary

Previous experience in the relevant fields is required as is ability to communicate in English as well as in Arabic.

Please apply in writing in English, giving details of experience and contact telephone number to:

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NO. 1 IN SCOTLAND

هكذا من الأمل

1983: A challenging year for World Bank

By Rupert Pennant-Rea

LONDON — For the World Bank, 1983 will be a fateful year.

Almost all its developing country clients face serious financial problems, and need World Bank help more than ever. Yet some of the bank's rich-country donors remain ambivalent about the bank's role in helping to solve those problems.

These conflicting pressures can be summed up in just three words: International Development Association (IDA) is the World Bank's agency for lending to the poorest countries. It offers very favourable terms: loans repayable over 50 years (with no repayments at all for the first 10 years), no interest charges, and only a small service fee.

It can provide loans so cheaply because it is financed by grants from the richest countries. The "seventh replenishment" of those

grants — IDA-7 — is being negotiated over the coming months. Unless some agreement is reached before the bank's annual meeting in September, it is no exaggeration to say that IDA's very existence will be threatened.

By extension, the future of the World Bank itself will also face a large question mark. Its whole operation depends on a delicate balance between IDA's concessional finance and the commercial loans offered by the bank's main entity, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD). If IDA runs out of money, the bank could not ignore the financial and development needs of the world's poorest countries.

Yet it could only offer them IBRD money on market terms, which means maturities of 10-20 years and interest rates that vary with market rates (currently about 11 per cent). Few, if any, of IDA's

borrowers could afford to service such loans. Borrowing on commercial terms would actually make their problems worse, yet not borrowing would mean having to clamp down hard on domestic consumption and investment.

The ramifications of IDA go even deeper than this. The World Bank knows only too well how cautious the capital markets have become about lending to developing countries. The IBRD needs to borrow some \$9.3 billion from those capital markets in the current financial year, and about \$10 billion next year.

All that money will go to those same developing countries that now worry bankers and bondholders. Because the IBRD has an impeccable commercial record — no had debts, no rescheduling — it has maintained the triple-A credit rating that allows it to borrow on the cheapest possible terms. By contrast, many commercial banks

which have no more than a quarter of their portfolio lent to developing countries have had their credit ratings downgraded.

The IBRD commands triple-A status partly because it lends only to the middle-income countries. If it had to start lending to IDA countries as well, then what bankers call the "quality of its portfolio" would deteriorate. Were this to happen, the IBRD would have to pay higher interest rates on its loans. It would pass these extra costs on to its customers — and their debt-servicing problems would therefore get worse.

The negotiations on IDA-7 are thus of crucial importance for the bank and for the developing world. Yet there is nothing inevitable about their outcome. Indeed, they may hinge on the as-yet unknown views of a few newly-elected members of the U.S. Congress.

The United States is the biggest contributor to IDA. It paid more than a quarter of the IDA-6 replenishment. However, its contribution has been delayed in every one of the six IDA replenishments, largely because Congress can amend or veto whatever the Reagan administration proposes.

Congressional delay has already caused serious difficulties for IDA-6. The "pro-rata rule" allows other donors to delay or adjust their own contributions to IDA in line with whatever the Americans do. In 1982 Britain, the Netherlands, Sweden and other big donors waived that rule, thus saving IDA from having to close down its lending for a while. But they have made it clear that they will not come to the rescue again.

The task of getting agreement on IDA-7 should not be underestimated. IDA-6 was worth \$12

billion; to maintain that value in real terms, IDA-7 will have to be about \$15 billion.

But that figure ignores several facts. First, China is now eligible for IDA loans, so the number of "IDA people" has roughly doubled. Second, the World Bank is committed to sharply increased lending to sub-Saharan Africa. If these extra commitments were to be translated into cash, \$30 billion or so would be needed for IDA-7.

Such an increase is impossible. The World Bank would count itself lucky to get \$15 billion, paid in on time and without fuss. But it knows that the Reagan administration is, at best, lukewarm about IDA; that the pressure to cut the U.S. budget deficit will grow during the year; and that the new Congress may well be even more hostile to foreign aid than its predecessor. So 1983 is not going to be easy.

Earthscan



A World Bank loan makes possible the laying of new water pipes in Bogotá, Colombia.

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An independent Arab national daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975
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University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.
Telephones: 666320, 666265
Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO
JORTIMES, Amman, Jordan.

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

GUEST COMMENTARY A voice from the inside

By Tareq Masarweh
Al Rai

MICHAEL Sterner's article for the New York Times (which is published on this page in the Jordan Times today) is pragmatic and honest.

The former Middle East specialist at the State Department and U.S. ambassador to the United Arab Emirates said in his article: At the heart of the recent dialogue between King Hussein and American officials is the credibility of American policy. The Arabs are not only worried about the ability of the U.S. administration to implement its declared policy, but also whether the next U.S. administration would continue to be committed to the policies of the present administration and so on. Sterner adds: King Hussein's memory is as long as his rule. He has dealt with seven American presidents and eight American secretaries of state. He saw and tried personally the twisted methods of American politics, its initiatives and failures. Since 1967, U.S. administrations have been condemning the construction of Israeli settlements in the West Bank and Gaza, but have done nothing to stop them. The number of these settlements has

now reached 100, but U.S. aid to Israel has increased, not decreased.

As for current peace efforts, Sterner is in effect asking the Arabs to examine the credibility of American policy on two questions before doing anything. The first question is the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, and the second is halting the construction of Israeli settlements. Other than that, as Sterner says, no Arab government has to humiliate itself by accepting to negotiate on the future of the occupied territories or to accept the stupid logic that it is easier for Washington to pressure Menachem Begin's government on the question of settlements by starting the negotiations first.

Finally, we would not have bothered to copy what Michael Sterner said had it not been for the fact that he is so close to the U.S. administration, and his words have special significance.

Perhaps what Sterner said would stop those who are trying to bypass events and pick up the apples before they are ripe.

JORDAN'S ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Rai: King takes Palestinian question to Oman

On the fourth stop of his Gulf tour His Majesty King Hussein met Sultan Qaboos of Oman. Together the two monarchs made a comprehensive review of the King's present political initiative at Arab and international levels.

The main motivation of the King's present tour, and the issue which has recently absorbed his energies is the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue, and its future progress. This dialogue is particularly important because it forms the cornerstone of the common Arab effort aimed at liberating the occupied Arab territories, and relieving the suffering of their courageous people.

The King's preoccupation with future relations between the two peoples stems from two facts: 1. The historical and geographic ties that link the two peoples make the Palestinian question, the essence of general Arab concern at present, a prime Jordanian priority. Any initiative from any Arab country which neglects this fact will be doomed to ineffectiveness. For it will thus be unable to achieve any advances towards the goal of guaranteeing the

rights of the Palestinian people and ending the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories. 2. The recent international developments have made it possible to achieve some progress along the path to peace in the Middle East. The positive aspects that these new developments have brought about necessitate a responsible Arab approach capable of rallying sympathetic forces in order to seize the opportunities presently available. The conducive situation which exists at the moment cannot last forever, and new initiatives might easily emerge which would retard progress towards solving Palestinian question.

People should therefore realise that the King's visit to these Arab capitals are of great importance with regard to the Palestinian cause. The pointless attempts made so far to belittle the importance of the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue risk jeopardising the future of the Palestinians, as well as betraying the responsibility, which all states should have, to the Arab Nation.

Al Dustour: PLO talks with Israeli peace body worries Begin

The Israeli government seems to see a threat to its expansionist dreams everytime an Israeli public figure or political group holds a meeting with a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) representative. The Israeli cabinet's feverish debate of the meeting held in Tunis between a member of the Israeli Peace Council and PLO leader Yasser Arafat and other PLO officials reflects the rejectionist position adopted by the Israeli ruling circles towards peace in the Middle East.

The Israeli ruling clique are continuously enraged when sections of Israeli public opinion express a different view from its war-mongering

aggression. Previous meetings between Israeli advocates of peace and PLO representatives have aroused similar responses, but the reaction to the meeting in Tunis reflects the extent of the rage felt by the Begin government at the peace offensive launched by the Arabs. Israel's official extremists have been counting heavily on mobilising the Israeli people's emotions against the Arabs, particularly by portraying the latter as a threat to the future of every single Israeli. The present peaceable Arab initiative has consequently deprived the Zionist expansionists of much propaganda material, forcing them to resort to a distortion of the facts.

One of the hardest noses around

By Michael Littlejohns
Reuters

UNITED NATIONS — Kenneth Adelman, President Reagan's number two at the United Nations who has now taken over the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, is known as a tough talker.

With one of the hardest noses around the day before his transfer last Wednesday to the new post, Mr. Adelman fired a parting shot across the U.N.'s bows, accusing the organisation of a "creeping assault" on words, and a propensity for doubletalk.

In one account of foreign reaction to Mr. Reagan's decision to move him to Washington, an anonymous Western European delegate was quoted as saying: "Adelman is simply abominable. He's like Gromyko — his instinct is to say no to anything."

Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko's "noyes" are a U.N. byword. Some delegates fear that if Mr. Adelman, who succeeds Eugene Rostow, remains as uncompromising as he was in the J.N. progress towards disarmament will be slow.

Mr. Adelman, a 36-year-old political scientist, was brought to the U.N. by Ambassador Jean Kirkpatrick as her deputy.

A stern man who seldom smiles, Mr. Adelman studied under Mrs. Kirkpatrick at Georgetown University. In the U.N., he reserved his harshest language for the Soviet Union, Poland, Cuba, Vietnam and Nicaragua but did not shrink from chastising a friendly

Western state. In the General Assembly last October, he replied to a remark by Swedish Foreign Minister Lenart Bodstrom about U.S. support for repressive right-wing regimes in Central America, by saying: "Obnoxious... false."

If Mr. Bodstrom was concerned about human rights, "it would be fascinating to have him explain how Sweden gives \$50 million this year — its second highest amount of foreign aid, second only after Tanzania — to none other than Vietnam," Mr. Adelman said.

A month later, also in the General Assembly, Mr. Adelman accused the Soviet Union of arresting peace activists and exploiting disarmament for propaganda purposes.

Recalling that 11 Soviet demonstrators were arrested for trying to unfurl a banner proclaiming "Bread, Life, Disarmament", he said: "One wonders which of these three words was considered so dangerous that it had to be hidden from the people of Moscow."

Mr. Adelman's parting shot was in an article about the U.N., published by the Wall Street Journal, which in its editorial pages is consistently hostile towards the world body and many related agencies.

He wrote that while the New International Economic Order loomed and the new international humanitarian order was "destined to pester us later", what he termed the new international world order represented the greatest threat to

The deeper, unexamined problem

By Rami G. Khouri

Amman seems to be rather preoccupied these days with the question of traffic safety and the ability and/or willingness of the state to apply the law consistently and equitably. One specific incident in which a young man was killed has sparked off this commotion, but behind this there is considerable, accumulated concern among many people in Jordan about conditions on our roads. That concern is justified, as we can see simply by comparing statistics on Jordanian traffic accidents with those from other countries. But this is not what people are really talking about these days. The heart of the matter is not about cars or roads; it is about the legal basis of society, about the ethical foundations of groups of people who gather together and call themselves a nation-state.

It is missing the point somewhat, I suggest, to dwell upon whether or not the police are able to enforce the laws of the road. If we put a traffic policeman and a checkpoint at every intersection, we would quickly improve the traffic situation. But then we would have in deal with other problems, such as unsafe practices by contractors at construction sites; dangerous road conditions due in poor maintenance; the mass theft inflicted upon consumers by merchants who sell

sophisticated products without adequate maintenance or spare parts service; and the many other such challenges facing our society.

Road safety, symbolised by the state's control and/or punishment of unlicensed and underaged drivers, is as good a starting point as any to begin tackling the underlying weaknesses of Arab societies as a whole. For what is it, in the final analysis, that encourages young Arab boys to drive their parents' cars at high speeds through urban districts, with an almost total disregard for the safety of other members of the same society and the same nation-state? It is not, in fact, only the lack of traffic policemen on the streets. It is much deeper than that. It is the same thing that motivates the majority of Arab drivers to throw hags of garbage, cigarette boxes, banana peels, apple cores and lettuce leaves out of their car windows while driving through city and countryside alike. The culprit is a massive lack of civic-consciousness. This can translate into a reckless disregard for the law, at times, and into an inhuman lack of concern for the safety and well-being of one's fellow citizens, at others. The peculiar aspect of this phenomenon is that it is, in its essence, very un-Arab. Which is why it is all the more disturbing to see it and to see its consequences.

in the form of dirty streets or young people sent to an early death. I say it is un-Arab because we all know and experience the fact that the outstanding characteristic of Arab individuals is their hospitality, generosity and complex sense of courtesy and duty to others. So how do we reconcile these two seemingly contradictory phenomena?

The answer does not lie in trying to make sweeping statements about whether Arabs, as a collective group, are good or bad, kind or mean, courteous or inconsiderate. Rather, the answer probably lies in all of us trying to get down to the core of the social, political and economic forces that form the basis of Arab society and our individual Arab states, of which, at least, there were 21. The forces that create and hold together a state are the same ones that ultimately define the character of its people, including whether or not they throw garbage out of car windows or allow their children to drive cars in a reckless manner.

It has always been assumed in 20th Century Arab states that people give their allegiance to the state against basic services that the state provides in return, such as security, education, roads, health facilities and the promotion of an atmosphere in which the general

welfare of society is enhanced. That model has more or less worked successfully for many decades. Jordan is among the best example of how people can make great advances in social and economic development if there is political will, internal order and a cooperative spirit between the public and private sectors. The imperative for material development has been powerful. But it has also gone so far that it seems to have a momentum of its own. The Arab individual has been encouraged for so long to work, make money and improve the welfare of his family that self-serving material gain has become the lodestar and credo of most individuals and family groups. This trend has been much enhanced by the lack of other outlets for people's energies, most notably the lack of political outlets and methods of participatory decision-making.

It has been further aggravated in the past decade by the vast amounts of easy money available to many people in the Arab World — easy money which makes it possible for some children to play with cars, for example, because the money is there, and other outlets for energy and social and/or political development are not. The natural consequence of such a trend is a situation where people

look to the state purely as a means to help them satisfy more and more of their material greed. The state becomes an instrument of people's selfishness, instead of evolving as an expression of their natural but much mangled selflessness and spirit of communal concern. We ultimately develop into schizophrenic, double-personality societies, being generous, kind and compassionate at home while turning wild, savage and intemperate in public, behind the wheel of a car or in almost any public situation marked by anonymity (such as, for example, waiting in line at a bank or government office, shopping or a sports event). The discrepancy between our public and private lives is probably a 20th Century phenomenon in the Arab World. Its ugliest manifestation is the selfish attitude that satisfying one's private pleasures and needs is the most important thing in life, regardless of the law, other people's lives or anything else. Our task as a society, and as individual Arab nation-states, is to deal with this ugly reality and come to grips with its root causes before we can try to eliminate its consequences. Until we do, our identity as nation-states will always remain vulnerable and thin like our lives before a speeding car driven by a child.

The Arabs' next move

By Michael Sterner

The following commentary by Michael Sterner under the above headline appeared in the New York Times Jan. 19. Michael Sterner is former State Department specialist on Arab-Israeli negotiations and served as U.S. ambassador to the United Arab Emirates. He is now a consultant on international affairs.

WASHINGTON — At the heart of the recent dialogue between King Hussein and American officials is the credibility of American policy. The Arabs worry not only about the administration's ability to carry out its expressed Middle East policies but also whether later administrations will feel committed to these policies.

This concern is not merely a figment of the Arab imagination. King Hussein's memory is long: As Jordan's ruler, he has dealt with seven presidents and eight secretaries of state. He has witnessed and personally experienced many zigzags and zags in American policy, many initiatives, many failures to follow through. But for all Arabs, the great blow to our credibility has been our performance on the issue of Israeli settlement-building in the occupied territories. Administrations since 1967 have without exception condemned it but have

declined to make it a real issue. While more than 100 settlements have been planted in the West Bank and Gaza, our assistance to Israel has increased, not decreased.

This spinelessness casts a long shadow over the future of Middle East negotiations because of the many ambiguities that are, of necessity, built into the Camp David accords. Such questions as the final borders between a Palestinian homeland and Israel, the homeland's judicial status and its relationship with its neighbours are left undefined. In place of solid answers, Camp David asks the Arabs to have faith in an American role that in effect would insure that the negotiations, at the end, will produce an outcome consistent with the basic provisions of United Nations Resolution 242.

This is difficult for the Arabs to accept. They cannot be blamed for trying to close as many of these

open-ended questions as possible. But by now they should have a clear picture of what they can, and cannot, reasonably expect to get.

They must not expect Washington to abandon the Camp David road map as the format for negotiations. This is not because our policy makers have ever considered it perfect but because any fundamental departure would relieve the Israeli government of its commitment to negotiate the Palestinian issue, a commitment that is of utmost importance to the Arabs. For its part, the Palestine Liberation Organisation must be flexible in agreeing to a formula on Palestinian representation that does not fly in the face of Camp David's provision that Palestinians should negotiate a part of the Jordanian and Egyptian delegations.

"Distressing as the Arabs find our political system's two- and four-year cycles, a longer-range perspective demonstrates that one administration's policy positions, if built on solid ground, almost always have been incorporated into successors' policies.

It makes sense for the Arabs to

defer their response to President Reagan's Sept. 1 proposal (which urges "full autonomy" under some form of Jordanian supervision for Palestinians in the occupied territories, and a freeze on settlements) until a broad understanding on withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon is reached. Each set of negotiations will be difficult, and to try to proceed with both simultaneously will only add to the complications.

Beyond progress in Lebanon, the issue that constitutes a reasonable test of our credibility is the settlements. No Arab government should have to humiliate itself by agreeing to negotiate the territories' future if Israel can stonewall the talks and keep building settlements, nor should any Arab government be fooled by the argument that it will be easier for Washington to persuade Mr. Begin to discontinue settlement building if only the Arabs will first enter the negotiations.

If it is reasonable for the Arabs to pose this test, it is also reasonable for Washington to insist that, to rise to the challenge, it must have in hand a clear and otherwise

unconditional Arab public commitment that if settlement activity is discontinued, Jordan and Palestinian leaders will join the negotiations to work out an autonomy agreement for the West Bank and Gaza.

Would Menachem Begin's government ever agree to negotiations under such conditions? There is perhaps a 50-50 chance, but this is not the whole story. Negotiations cannot, if any case, succeed so long as the ongoing settlement activity is unresolved. Fundamental political changes may have to take place in Israel before negotiations can get under way.

In making the crucial decision about their next move, moderate Arabs must keep in mind the essence of American strategy — to strengthen the hands of Arabs and Israelis who believe a negotiated settlement is possible. To the extent the Arabs encumber their response to Mr. Reagan's proposal with conditions that blunt the efficacy of that strategy, they will have lost the battle of drawing Washington into a role that can help them.

Deng's moderates press ahead with reforms

By Richard Pascoe
Reuters

PEKING — Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping's ruling moderates, having consolidated their position at the 12th Communist Party Congress last autumn, are pressing ahead with important reforms as the new year gets under way. A reshuffle of provincial leaderships appears to have started with the main aim of bringing in younger blood, while big economic changes are either being made, tested out in practice or proposed in the state-run media.

Premier Zhao Ziyang has staked his reputation on making China's bureaucracy more efficient and its industries more competitive. He began at the top last year by streamlining ministries and amalgamating government departments. Recent headlines such as "smash the iron rice-bowl" or "stop eating from one big pot" might not mean much to a Western reader, but behind them lies a government apparently determined to tackle some of the basic flaws in the outdated economic system set up under Mao Tse-tung in the 1950s. Mao would no doubt turn in his crystal coffin if he knew what his successors, led by his one-time opponents, were doing.

Mr. Deng and his allies are steadily and firmly ringing the changes in their attempt to build a richer and more powerful country while still remaining Communist. To achieve this, they must not only increase farm output to feed an extra 200 million people by the year 2000, the minimum estimated population increase even under a rigorous compulsory birth control programme, but also raise living standards. They appear to believe that the key lies in liberalising the economy, something already achieved in agriculture by giving peasants greater material incentives and organising them on a household rather than a collective basis.

But industry and commerce have lagged behind, for the most part still hampered by a strait-jacket of rigid central planning lacking both incentives and a free labour market. Steps have been taken by the post-Mao leadership to give some of China's state-run enterprises more autonomy and keep more of their profits for development. The government says it is working on an overall blueprint for reforming the economic structure. It says the

plan will take three more years to complete and will not be fully implemented until the 1985-90 five-year plan.

Meanwhile, local regions are being encouraged to try out various kinds of experiments and to make sure things keep moving. At least four new, younger provincial governors have been appointed in the past few weeks.

Taxation system

Two pilot schemes judged successful will be applied more widely this year, according to official press reports. One was the introduction of a taxation system for factories under which they would have incentives to become more efficient. Previously they had to hand over their profits to the state.

The second was the abolition of the prefecture level of local government, allowing more direct links between cities and their surrounding counties. This not only trimmed the bureaucracy, but it also improved supplies of farm produce and raw materials for urban industry and led to more investment in the villages. Under another major reform designed to boost productivity, applied initially in Peking municipality, all

new workers will in future be employed on a contract basis and employers can sack workers who do not do their jobs properly.

This reform, not yet introduced nationally, would be a big step towards ending the existing Maoist "iron rice bowl" employment system under which workers are hired for life and can only be sacked for extremely bad behaviour. This has led to widespread absenteeism, lax discipline and workers who often just don't care.

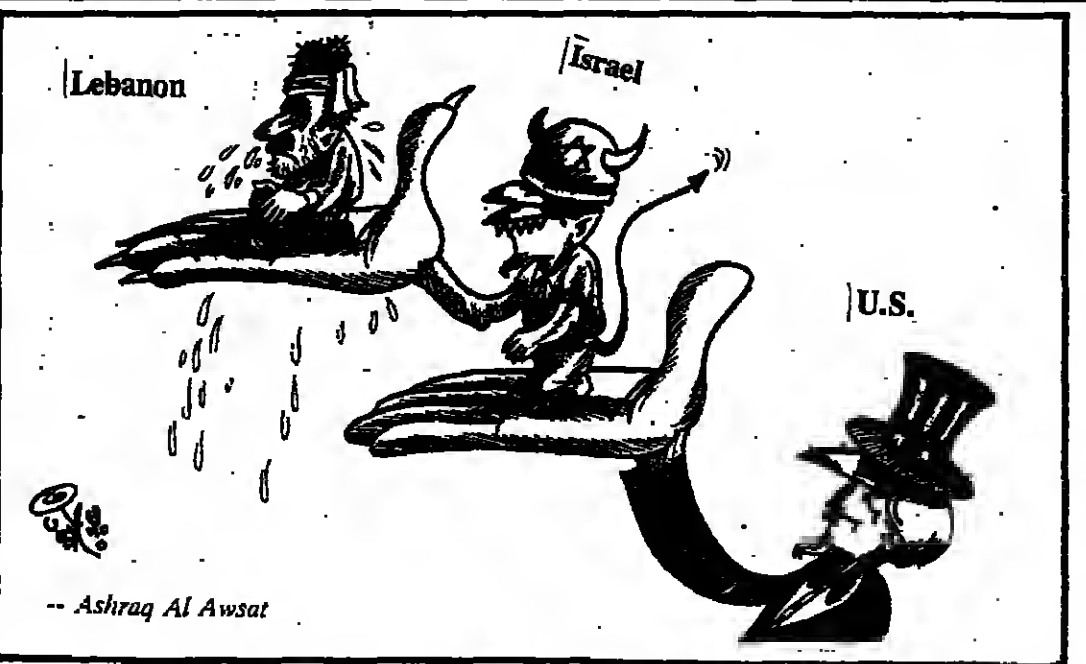
A "floating salary" scheme is one of the latest ideas to be tried out and recommended for further experiments. The newspaper of China's state-run trade unions, the Workers Daily, was appropriately selected to propose big changes to the existing wages system dating back to 1956 when Mao was still in the process of expropriating capitalists' property. The paper said in an editorial the old system was divorced from output, too egalitarian, and encouraged inertia, laziness and the phenomenon of "eating from one big pot of rice."

This expression, a favourite way of criticising one of the main flaws in the Maoist economic system, usually refers to loss-making

enterprises being constantly subsidised by the state without the risk of closure.

People have been told they can in theory even start up their own businesses, within carefully defined limits, and small-scale private enterprise in the form of street hawkers, cobblers and cafes is making a big comeback. One of the most interesting new suggestions aired in official newspapers recently was a proposal that Chinese organisations should start advertising for trained personnel.

Under the existing method, all staff are assigned their jobs by the local government and must go wherever they are sent. A commentator said this meant some organisations were short of suitable staff while others were overmanned with people whose skills were being wasted. Advertising would help to enhance staff enthusiasm, make better use of human resources and permit more flexibility for companies which might want to take on extra staff at certain times and drop them at others, he added. It would clearly also give people more freedom to choose their own jobs and help to avoid the problem of dissatisfied staff assigned to places where they did not want to work.



LETTERS

Reuters free from bias

To the Editor:

I write to you following publication by the Jordan Times on Jan. 4 of a letter signed Kunhimon Otrupalam commenting on a Reuters feature from New Delhi published in your newspaper on Dec. 27.

We find it difficult to understand how the Jordan Times, a much respected newspaper, could publish a totally unjustified attack against Reuters and one of its correspondents. Reuters' freedom from bias and its record on the reporting on Third World countries are well known to the Jordan Times.

F. Duriaud
Editor, Middle East,
Reuters Ltd.,
P.O. Box 1030,
Manama, Bahrain

مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية المستقلة

By Philip Stephens
Reuter

—

SPORTS

Lendl retains Masters title

NEW YORK (R) — Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia asserted his claim for the world number one ranking here Sunday when he beat John McEnroe for the seventh consecutive time and retained his Grand Prix Masters tennis title.

Lendl won 6-4, 6-4, 6-2 but the score did not truly reflect his dominance of the two-hour match before an 18,000 Madison Square Garden crowd.

The 22-year-old Czechoslovak was in complete command throughout. He never dropped his powerful service but broke McEnroe four times as he ended the New Yorker's 26-match unbeaten run.

Lendl was also superior in every other department. He volleyed more accurately, powered his lethal groundstrokes past McEnroe and proved the steadier player from the baseline.

Lendl, who defeated American Vitas Gerulaitis in last year's final, received \$100,000. McEnroe, 23, collected \$60,000.

Lendl's triumph capped an awesome three-day performance during which he overpowered Yannick Noah of France on Friday and Jimmy Connors Saturday, both in straight sets. Five matches covering 13 sets.

Lendl set the tone for the match at the start, breaking McEnroe's service in the opening game on

three errors and a forehand volley, and then holding his first serve at love.

That break proved decisive because Lendl and McEnroe held their service for the rest of the set, both saving breakpoints in the third and fourth games.

Again in the second set, Lendl managed one service break, in the seventh game, while holding service throughout and permitting McEnroe to reach deuce only once.

In that seventh game, McEnroe saved four breakpoints, but on the fifth, Lendl drilled across a backhand winner in reply to a McEnroe first service.

Lendl then served out at love in the eighth and from 30 in the 10th game for the set.

McEnroe, increasingly discouraged by his inability to cope with Lendl's onslaught, was broken in the first game of the third set after three Lendl winners and a double-fault. Lendl then held his service to love.

In the fourth game, McEnroe went within a point of leveling at 2-2 when he blasted an overhead to reach breakpoint, but Lendl's serve again bailed him out.

Two bad McEnroe forehands — the first a service return and the second down the line — enabled Lendl to break McEnroe's service

for the fourth time to lead 5-2. Lendl then held at love for the fourth time in the match and retained his crown.

"He had me off balance and he was all over me," said McEnroe, who had not tasted defeat since losing to Lendl in the semifinals of last year's U.S. Open. "I also felt I wasn't moving well, and he came up with the big serve when he had to."

Lendl, ranked third behind McEnroe and Connors, said his service was the key to his success.

"I'm tossing the ball higher and I'm serving harder," he said. "I'm also returning his serve better than two or three years ago."

ATP computer ranks McEnroe No. 1

The computer of the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP), the bible of the rankings, says that the world best male tennis player is John McEnroe, followed by Jimmy Connors.

But, to anyone who saw Ivan Lendl's performance in the past week's Masters Tennis Championships, the computer lies.

After equalling a record by winning 15 tournaments in 1982, the 22-year-old Czechoslovak climaxed the year's Grand Prix circuit when he decisively beat McEnroe.

Blomqvist leads Monte Carlo Rally

MONTE CARLO (R) — Sweden's Stig Blomqvist took an early lead in the 51st Monte Carlo Rally Monday despite the absence of snow, the element most likely to help his four-wheel drive Audi Quattro.

After the 663.5-kilometre opening stage in the French Alps, Blomqvist, driving an Audi for the first time, held a lead of 10 seconds over Frenchman Guy Frequentin in an Opel Ascona, the organisers said.

The section included five timed tests totalling 157 kms — the sixth one was cancelled when crowds surged around the cars at the start point — and Blomqvist won two of them.

Since the start from Grenoble Sunday night the drivers have encountered dry roads, with occa-

sional patches of ice—conditions likely to reduce the advantage of the four-wheel drive Audis. Their leech-like grip is so effective on snowy and icy roads.

But Blomqvist demonstrated the Audis' ability to win in all weathers by outclassing the Opel's and the three Lancias of last year's winner Walter Rohrl of West Germany, Markku Alen of Finland and Frenchman Jean-Claude Andruet.

The top 200 cars leave Monaco Tuesday morning for another 15 stages in the mountains and the survivors return to the principality on Thursday for the third and final act.

Hot favourite Hannu Mikkola of Finland managed only sixth place in his Audi, nearly three minutes behind Blomqvist.

But at least he fared better than 1981 winner Jean Ragnotti of France, whose Renault 5 Turbo went off the road and hit a spectator soon after the start, the organisers said. The spectator was not seriously hurt and Ragnotti was able to continue after a short delay.

But the Renaults seemed to be having road holding problems due to faulty tyres and Ragnotti was already four minutes 32 seconds behind the leader.

Frenchman Jean-Luc Therier, winner of one timed-test in his Renault 5 Turbo, became the first leading contender to retire with a broken gearbox.

The 4,000-km opening event of the World Championship season ends here on Friday.

France hoping to stage '92 Olympics

PARIS (R) — France is hoping to stage the Summer and Winter Olympics in 1992, the centenary year of a speech by French aristocrat Baron Pierre de Coubertin which inspired the modern Olympic movement.

On Nov. 25, 1982 Baron de Coubertin finished an address to a meeting of sports enthusiasts in Paris with the words—"Sport must be international—there must be Olympic Games."

Now, 91 years later, the French Olympic Committee has made an application to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to be considered for the 1992 Summer Olympics.

In addition the Tarentaise region, which takes in most of the French Alpine winter sports resorts, said last December it would make a bid to stage the Winter Olympics in 1992.

No country since the World War II has staged both winter and summer events in the same year. France, though, has experience of staging the two games in a 12-month period in 1924.

The French bid for the summer games is being backed by President Francois Mitterrand and was put to the IOC in Los Angeles last Friday.

The Tarentaise move came at a press conference in the French resort of Val d'Isere given by local politician Michel Barnier and French Olympic gold medalist Jean-Claude Killy, who lives in the town.

So far two cities have been suggested for the summer games—Paris and the Mediterranean city of Nice.

Those in favour of Paris point out that the city already has a number of sites in and around the centre ideal for the various summer disciplines.

Two airports—Orly and the newer Charles de Gaulle airport—serve the French capital and the city is well-versed in the problem of handling a huge influx of visitors, both in terms of hotels and public transport.

On the western edge of the city there are stadiums at Parc des Princes and Jean Bouin for field sports, the indoor arena appropriately named after Baron de Coubertin and the new Palais des Sports.

South of the capital there are the cycle track at Croix de Bern and the showjumping facilities at Fontainebleau.

The eastern area of the city boasts rowing facilities at Creteil, a modern athletics stadium at Pershing, another cycle track at Clichy and an Olympic-sized swimming pool at Les Tourelles. Bercy, within the city limits, will offer gymnastic and fencing facilities when a new sports complex is completed.

But a large stadium to hold 100,000 people for the track-and-field athletics would have to be built as well as an Olympic village.

So far no projected costs have

been made public although supporters of Paris maintain these would be somewhat lower than average because of existing facilities. Marne-le-Vallee, east of Paris, has been suggested as a site for the village.

Nice's main advantage is its warm Mediterranean climate whereas Paris, located much further north, is more liable to rain and changeable weather.

Also, as a long-standing tourist area, Nice has the same experience as Paris in handling large numbers of visitors.

The French bid for the summer games has taken into account the fact that Greece is a natural choice for 1996, the 100th anniversary of the first modern games, which were modelled on the old Greek games.

The Tarentaise claim is based on the boast that some of the finest skiing in the world is to be found in the area, at resorts such as Val d'Isere, Les Arcs, Tignes, Courchevel, Meribel, Val Thorens and Valmorel.

Killy, who won gold medals in all the alpine ski events at Grenoble in 1968 and was the first skiing superstar, is a leading light in the promotion of Val d'Isere as a winter sports centre.

"I have skied throughout the entire world, but for me each return to the Tarentaise is a new experience, knowing I will find the best slopes waiting for me", Killy told a press conference.

Hamburg's fans bored with winning

BONN (R) — The fans of West German soccer champions Hamburg are difficult to please, it seems.

When the Bundesliga resumes this weekend after the winter break, Hamburg, at home to Nuremberg, will be defending a record unbeaten run which stretches back 35 games.

But the fans remain unimpressed. This season attendances at the Volksparkstadion are almost 10,000 down on last season's average of 33,000.

Club officials are worried by the dwindling crowds, particularly as 36,000 are needed at each game just to break even.

They are also puzzled, as Hamburg's fluent attacking style, which has brought them 42 goals in 17 games, could reasonably have been expected to keep the turnstiles clicking merrily.

Though the city of Hamburg is suffering from above-average unemployment, recession alone cannot explain the mystery.

The answer, many critics say, is that Hamburg are simply too good. Their fans are sated by suc-

cess and bored by their predictable winning ways.

Hamburg, two points ahead of Bayern Munich, have acquired such an air of invincibility that rival managers and players openly suggest their amazing unbeaten run could well last for the rest of the season.

One of the missing thousands from the Volksparkstadion appears to be national team manager Jupp Derwall, who has largely ignored the Hamburg stars as he rebuilds the West German team for the European Championship.

Fullback Manfred Kaltz, striker Horst Hrubesch and midfielder Felix Magath all played in the World Cup in Spain but both Hrubesch and Magath have since decided to retire from the international scene.

All three showed distinct signs of World Cup weariness at the beginning of the League campaign. But Hamburg proved they have enough strength in depth to overcome such handicaps.

Borussia Dortmund trainer Karlheinz Feldkamp recently suggested the national side should consist of 10 Hamburg players plus Karl-Heinz Rummenigge.

Derwall does not agree. Apart from Kaltz, dropped for the friendly against Belgium in September but since recalled, no Hamburg player has lined up for West Germany this season.

Midfielder Jurgen Milewski and sweeper Holger Hieronymus have both appeared as substitutes but neither has so far been able to secure a regular place.

Derwall may have some justification for it is hard to pick out individuals in a Hamburg team operating more as a well-oiled functional machine than as a col-

TENNIS TALK

Win with a waltz

By Maureen Stalla

SOONER OR later the weather is going to get better and we will once again resume our tennis schedules. But chances are our game will lag far behind our enthusiasm. Balls will fly everywhere, timing will be off and we will actually feel that we don't belong on the court, that is too long (on our side) or too short (on the other side).

It is a feeling that all tennis players, even the very best, experience. You have lost your timing and I've found that the best way to get back your lost rhythm is to concentrate on your footwork. Try to establish your rhythm with every step. Think of the stroke as a waltz: 1,2,3,1,2,3. The first count is the bounce; the second count is your forward step towards the net; the third count is the hit. If you fit your stroke into an even three counts, you will soon start to feel smooth and relaxed on the court again. Bounce, step, bit, 1,2,3.

In fact, be aware of all your steps on the court. Chances are, if the feet are right, the stroke is right. For a forehand, wait for the ball with your weight on the back foot (side to the net of course). After the ball bounces, step with the foot closer to the net directly towards the net and transfer your weight forward. For a right handed forehand, the transfer is from your right to your left foot. Always step before you hit not as you hit. And certainly don't get caught with your weight still on your backfoot, having taken no step at all.

When running for a ball, it is much better to take several small steps, instead of one or two lunging steps towards the ball. If you try to economise and take only one step, you will probably be stepping toward the adjacent court instead of the direction you want to hit the ball. If your final step is late, or in the wrong direction, your body, shoulders and arm will try to compensate, resulting in an awkward stroke and a loss of power, pace, rhythm and, worst of all, the point. Remember your footwork.

India completes a rare day of success on tour

LAHORE, Pakistan (R) — Indian all-rounder Kapil Dev captured the last five Pakistan wickets to finish with career best figures of eight for 85 on the second day of the fifth cricket test Monday.

Pakistan were all out for 323 and India, who trail 3-0 in the six-match series, completed a rare day of success on their current tour by reaching 110 for two by the close.

Opening batsman Mudassar Nazar was Pakistan's outstanding performer, carrying his bat for 152 not out as the home team added 99 to their overnight 224 for five.

Mudassar emulated his father Nazir Mohammad who scored an unbeaten 124 in the inaugural India-Pakistan series 30 years ago. This is the first instance of a father and son batting throughout a complete test innings.

Mudasar, 99 overnight, com-

pleted his fifth test century and fourth against India, three of them in this series. It took him 333 minutes and included eight fours. He made 231 in the fourth test and has now scored 609 runs in his last seven innings against the touring side.

Sumit Gavaskar was lbw to Imran Khan for 13 at the start of the Indian innings and at 41 Krishna Srikanth was second out for 21, bowled by leg-spinner Abdul Qadir's groggy having hit two fours and a six.

But Mohinder Amarnath and Yashpal Sharma thwarted Pakistan's attempts to achieve a further breakthrough as they added 69 in an unbroken third-wicket stand before the close.

Amarnath, the more aggressive of the two, has so far struck six fours and a six, a vast hit off Qadir over long-off, in his 52 not out.

Fergus wins Bob Hope golf classic

PALM SPRINGS, California (R) — Keith Fergus parred the first extra hole here Sunday and defeated fellow American Rex Caldwell in the \$375,000 Bob Hope desert classic golf tournament.

Fergus and Caldwell shot seven-under-par 65's in their final round of the 90-hole event at the La Quinta Country Club to finish level on 25-under-par 335. Fergus's victory was the third of his career and worth \$67,500.

Caldwell, still seeking his first Professional Golfers' Association

tour victory, won \$40,500.

American Craig Stadler finished alone in third place on 21-under 339, while compatriots Chip Beck and John Fought tied on 340 for fourth place.

Fergus was in command for most of the day after shooting a 31 for his first nine holes. He still led by one stroke after his birdie at the 15th, but he slipped behind Caldwell after he bogeyed the 16th hole while Caldwell rolled in long putts for birdies at the 16th and 17th holes.

Huskies compete in Black Forest



TODTMOOS (Dad) — Huskies by the hundred compete in the world's largest dog team race, held at the end of January on a 24 km. circuit at an altitude of about 1,150 m in the Black Forest area of the Federal Republic of Germany. There are about 800 dogs in the 181 teams taking part, mostly Siberian huskies weighing about 10 kg. The Ger-

man Husky Club, with about 1,500 members and 2,800 dogs, was set up in 1969. The first husky races were held in the Sauerland area in 1972. In the summer the dogs are kept trim pulling carts with rubber wheels. They need exercise and enjoy it.

Borg decides to quit world tennis

BANGKOK (R) — Sweden's Bjorn Borg, one of the all-time greats of tennis, announced that he would quit competitive tennis later this year.

"I will play my last championship in Monte Carlo in April," he told reporters as he prepared to fly to Kathmandu, Nepal, with his parents, wife Mariana and coach Lennart Bergelin.

Borg, Wimbledon champion five times and French Open winner six times, also said that "Monte Carlo is the only tournament I will play this year."

The remarks to reporters who had kept vigil at the Bangkok hotel where he was staying confirmed a statement by coach Bergelin that Borg had decided to retire from world tennis as he was tired of tournament competition after 10 strenuous years.

"He has no more fighting spirit left, no real motivation. He has played good tennis, but he cannot take it anymore. He cannot stand the strain of circuit competition and four hours of practice a day," the coach added following Borg's

announcement.

Bergelin said that apart from the Monte Carlo tournament Borg, 26, would play in a few exhibitions in the United States, "but that is all."

He, however, added that Borg "will be in tennis... in business dealings connected with tennis," after retiring from competition.

Asked why Borg earlier told reporters in Bangkok, where he played exhibition matches, that he intended to play in the U.S. Open and Wimbledon Championships as well as other European tournaments this year, Bergelin said the idea had been to announce the retirement in the United States.

"But last night we decided it was no use holding back. The press... you people... are so persistent," he added.

Borg won his Wimbledon singles titles on grass from 1976 to 1980 and the French Championships on clay, proving his mastery of both surfaces. Yet he failed to lift the U.S. Open crown, a lifelong ambition, despite reaching the final four times.

At the age of 15 he represented Sweden in the Davis Cup men's team competition and led them to the trophy in 1975, when he remained unbeaten in singles.

Borg won the Italian title at the age of 17 and the French title soon after his 18th birthday, in 1974. He also became the third youngest Wimbledon champion when he captured the men's singles title for the first time in 1976.

Borg's achievements have left him a multi-millionaire and possibly the richest man in sport.

The weapons which earned him a fortune and left him a tax exile in Monaco were a deadly forehand and two fisted-backhand. The baseline was his domain.

Last year, Borg only appeared in a handful of tournaments following a dispute over tournament appearance with the International Tennis Federation.

He was told he would have to qualify for major championships, including Wimbledon, because he had not played enough Grand Prix events.

In New York, Borg's American agent Robert Kain said the Swede would quit the professional tennis circuit in April and not play in any Grand Slam events this year, but added it was possible he would return to competition later.

"Retirement. That's a pretty final word," Kain said at the Masters tennis tournament. "And I don't think he's retiring now. I believe it's entirely possible that he'll play in some Grand Prix tournaments, and perhaps some Grand Slam events, in 1984 and 1985."

Kain, who represents Borg for the U.S.-based International Management Group, said he spoke to Borg on the phone last Friday.

"He says he has no energy, feels drained, and doesn't want to put the effort into going after number one in the Grand Slam."

The agent said Borg would play a week of exhibitions in the U.S. in the first week in February and in an eight-man event in Toronto. After that Borg would play exhibitions in Japan and South Korea and, perhaps, a Grand Prix tournament in Monte Carlo.

A LECTURE/FILM SHOW ON The Design of Highways in Britain

will be presented by a British expert, Mr. D. Wood, at UKAS Club (see map) on Tuesday, Jan. 25 at 7:00 p.m.

All those interested are welcome to attend.

TIME

Europe: The nuclear gamble

Playing nuclear poker (Time cover story on nuclear diplomacy)

Fortress Falklands (behind Thatcher's determination)

Old wounds in France (the Papon case)

Imagines the body (new techniques for diagnosis)



WANTED

Executive secretary, with good command of English and Arabic, typing, telex and filing.

Please contact: Tel. 21881, 23223

GOVERNMENT TENDERING DIRECTORATE ANNOUNCEMENT SCHOOL BUILDINGS PROJECT MOE - PROJECT NO. 4

The Central Tendering Committee announces the tender of the following buildings:

- 1- The General Vocational School for Girls/Ruseifa (Area 7000m²)
- 2- The General Vocational School for Girls/Amman (Area 7200m²)

All classified contractors for the years 1979-1982 in the Ministry of Public Works as class "A" and "B" General, Class "A" buildings, and all international contracting firms registered at the International Bank for Development and Reconstruction are invited to get copies of the tendering documents from the project Implementation unit, the Ministry of Education (behind the General Security offices, Tel. 661166) for a non-refundable fee of JD 100 for every copy of each school.

Last date for obtaining tender documents is Monday, 28.2.1983.

Last date for submitting tender documents is Saturday, 5.3.1983 before 12 O'clock noon, at the Ministry of Public Works, Government Tenders Directorate.

NOTES:

- 1- All tenderers have to submit their offers in two separate envelopes. The first containing their pre-qualification documents and technical offer including time schedule, equipment, previous experience, and work load. The second envelope should contain financial offer and priced bill of quantities.
- 2- All tenderers have to fill the prices in the bill of quantity both in numbers and letters.
- 3- A tender bond of 5% of the amount of the tender should be attached to each offer.

Chairman-Central Tendering Committee

1350-1351

Int'l credit crisis said under control

BONN (R) — West German central bank chief Mr. Karl Otto Poehl said in an interview Sunday night he believed the international credit crisis had been brought under control.

Answering questions on a television current affairs programme, he said the central banks of richer nations had not become last minute rescuers for the international financial system.

He said it was true the main central banks had intervened last autumn in the cases of Mexico and Brazil because they had discerned a possible danger to the international banking system's ability to function.

He said West Germany's monetary system was not in any acute danger because of the financial crisis in certain countries.

Private banks had to furnish the lion's share of financing, but he believed the central banks had the responsibility for the system's ability to function.

West German Economics Minister Otto Lambsdorff and Finance Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg said they welcomed the stronger lending conditions set by the International Monetary Fund.

Mr. Stoltenberg said he could not foresee the 1929 collapse of the financial system repeating itself.

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — The market closed lower in active trading on sterling's sharp fall against the dollar and on news that the OPEC meeting had ended without agreement, dealers said. The commencement of the water worker's strike also contributed to the lower trend and the F.T. index at 1500 Monday was down 10.6 at 608.8.

The inconclusive OPEC meeting weakened the oil sector where Shell ended 32p down at 412. The rest of the market moved lower, with government bonds showing out losses ranging to 2½ points in a thin market, dealers added.

Gold shares lost as much as \$7 as the bullion price declined and North American shares eased.

Dowry Group was down 12p at 138 after six month interims at the bottom end of market expectations. UDS, awaiting further developments on the bid by Bessishaw, was off 5p at 101. Burton fell 12p at 292.

In banks, Midland and Lloyds were off 2p at 316 and 416 respectively, while in electricals, GEC was down 9p at 193, Plessey fell 22p at 567 and Shed 5p at 472 after 482.

Among leading industrials Distillers fell 5p at 246, Beecham was off 9p at 341 and ICI declined 6p at 364.

Dollar soars

LONDON (R) — The dollar soared on foreign exchanges Monday, pushing the pound sterling to an all-time low, because of a belief that U.S. interest rates would not be falling in the near future, dealers said.

On the London exchange, sterling opened at \$1.5535, below Friday's close of \$1.5665 and under the previous record low of \$1.5550 set in October, 1976.

In early trading the British currency fell further, and was quoted at \$1.5470 about half an hour after the opening.

Sterling held steady against other major currencies, with the Bank of England trade-weighted index rising to 83 at the opening from 82.8 at Friday's close.

In Frankfurt the dollar opened at a two-month high of 2.4765 West German marks, though it eased in early trading to around 2.4735.

On the Tokyo exchange, the dollar rose to a one-month high of 241.50 yen, to close strongly at 241.30—a rise of three yen over the day.

Dealers said a larger-than-expected rise of \$6.9 billion in the U.S. money supply M-1 had fuelled a belief that the Federal Reserve Board (FED) was unlikely to ease monetary policy by reducing interest rates soon.

Some dealers however did not rule out a half-point cut in the U.S. discount rate, which currently stands at 8.5 per cent.

The dollar's strength was reflected in a weakening of gold prices, which in London fell to \$476.25 an ounce from \$483.5 at Friday's close.

Journal selects Lufthansa for award

WASHINGTON — Air Transport World, one of the major aviation journals, has selected Lufthansa German Airlines for its airline of the year award for 1982. In its latest issue, Air Transport World states that the willingness to invest in new technology and the ability to apply it efficiently to advance the state of the art of air transport is but one element in the success of an airline.

Lufthansa was chosen for its consistent high quality and the benefits it has brought to the travelling public in general and the Federal Republic of Germany in particular.

Mr. Heinz Ruhman, chairman of the executive board of Lufthansa German Airlines, accepted the award Sunday in Washington D.C. He promised that Lufthansa will continue to strive to maintain the high standards it has achieved in safety, reliability, service and efficiency.

Chrysler shares prove rewarding

DETROIT (R) — Chrysler, the third largest U.S. carmaker which was near bankruptcy two years ago, has proved a rewarding investment for those who bought shares during its darkest hours.

Last year Chrysler turned in the best performance of any stock on Wall Street, rising nearly 425 per cent to \$17.75 each.

And Chrysler Chairman Lee Iacocca has just been voted the most respected executive in America in a Wall Street Journal poll conducted among business leaders.

Mr. Iacocca, who denies persistent rumours that he has political ambitions, commented: "Misery loves company. Admiration goes up directly proportional to adversity and the ability to deal with it."

Crippled by huge losses as imports took a rising share of a recession-cut market in 1979-81, Chrysler was a close fight for survival with the help of government-guaranteed bank loans.

But it regained financial health last year by earning \$150 to \$250 million, car industry analysts estimate. Its official 1982 results will be announced next month.

With U.S. carmakers expected

to sell about 6.5 million this year compared with a 21-year low of 5.76 million last year, analysts expect Chrysler to cash in on the surge with sales of \$13.2 billion in 1983, up from about \$10.8 billion in 1982.

Chrysler's turnaround has been dramatic since it was saved by the federal government, which provided backing for bank loans of \$1.2 billion in 1981.

The company achieved what once seemed the impossible by closing 20 plants, cutting its white-collar work force by half and winning wage and benefit concessions from its unions.

Today Chrysler is half the size it once was.

It also sold a subsidiary that made battle tanks, bringing in \$239 million in cash and making an important contribution to its balance sheet.

At the beginning of 1982 Chrysler shares were trading at around \$3 each.

With the price now just over \$16 after a slight settling back, most Wall Street brokers are predicting a stronger profit performance this year.

The analysts have been impressed that despite its large pile of

debts, Chrysler has shown decent operating results in a dismal 1982, with cash flow turning positive for the first time since 1977.

That suggests "a remarkable recovery in profitability," says Mr. David B. Healy of the brokerage firm of Drexel Burnham Lambert. Mr. Iacocca predicts Chrysler will start making "a lot of money" in 1983.

Although few experts believe the company will rake in a huge profit, most are cautiously optimistic about the firm and believe it will show an overall profit for the year.

The analysts say that although Chrysler has managed a remarkable turnaround, it still has an enormous task ahead.

They note the company is in arrears on about \$80 million of unpaid dividends on some of its stock.

Chrysler also paid back millions of dollars of debt it owed in the form of warrants which the holders can exchange in a one-for-one swap for Chrysler common stock.

Analysts say that 19.9 million warrants held by the government and the public are eligible for exchange this year.

NEWS IN BRIEF

IDB extends \$30m loan to Algeria

JEDDAH (OPECNA) — The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) Sunday signed a \$30 million loan agreement with the National Algerian Iron and Steel Company. The loan will be used to buy intermediate industrial products to improve the company's output.

Iran, Japan reach accord

TOKYO (OPECNA) — After months of intensive negotiations, Iran and Japan have reached an agreement on resuming work on the abandoned Imam Khomeini petrochemical project. Mr. Ahmad Ahmadi, head of the project, said here he hoped work would restart in March or April.

GCC experts discuss cooperation

ABU DHABI (OPECNA) — Experts from oilfield oil companies in the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states are meeting here Monday to discuss cooperation and the exchange of refining expertise.

U.K. workers go on strike

LONDON (R) — Workers in Britain's state-run water industry went on strike Monday with troops on stand-by and several million householders advised to boil drinking water. The 29,000 water and sewerage workers in England, Wales and Northern Ireland went on strike at midnight, after last-minute pay talks with the employers broke up without agreement. The stoppage does not affect Scotland, where 2,000 workers are awaiting the result of a strike ballot. The unions, who want parity with gas and electricity workers, are demanding a 15 per cent pay increase. They will meet Monday to discuss an offer of 7.3 per cent over 16 months, proposed by a mediator and accepted by the employers. Environment Minister Tom King, interviewed on British radio, appealed to the water workers to accept the offer. He expressed concern that the strike could damage British industry.

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, JAN. 25, 1983

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The early day finds a possible difficulty where a romantic matter is concerned but the rest of the day is excellent for organizing your career activities. Plan the future wisely.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Contact an influential person who can give you support for a fine project you have in mind. Take time for fun later in the day.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Your ideas are working like magic early in the day so be more aggressive than in the past. Relax at home tonight.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Make sure you carry through with promises to others. Loved one becomes more affectionate as the day passes.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Take time to learn what is expected of you by associates and try to please them for possible advancement in career.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Get busy at work ahead of you and gain fine benefits by being cooperative with others. Organizational work is the key to success now.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) A time to concentrate on getting ahead in your line of endeavor. Know what will please loved one the most whatever the cost.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Good day to confer with family members and maintain harmony in the home. Sidelstep one who is a troublemaker.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Good day to go after the information you need for a personal project. Fine also for communicating with outsiders.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You are thinking in a most practical vein and can easily handle a difficult problem now. Expressa happiness with loved one.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Morning may be depressing but later you can go after personal goals and gain them. Be careful of your money.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Forget the frivolous for now and get busy on practical matters that could give you a greater income in the future.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) A good friend who is wise can tell you how to solve certain problems, so listen carefully. Relax and be contented in the evening.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... be or she will be one with much organizational ability and should be given a chance to express this quality early in life. Give complicated chores and teach to use reason in dealing with others. Don't neglect religious training.

"The Stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

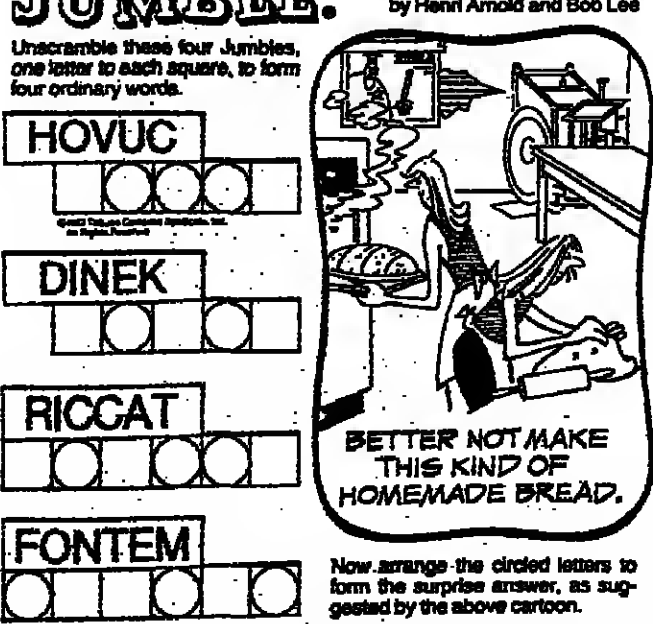
One sterling	1.5450/60	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.2323/26	Canadian dollars
	2.4785/95	West German marks
	2.7130/40	Dutch guilders
	2.0340/55	Swiss francs
	48.28/33	Belgian francs
	7.0160/210	French francs
	1421.75/1422.50	Italian lire
	242.00/15	Japanese yen
	7.4670/4740	Swedish crowns
	7.1720/70	Norwegian crowns
	8.7050/7150	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	473.50/474.50	U.S. dollars

THE BETTER HALF By Harris



"In your price range? I can send a kid to your house to overcharge you for some cheap souvenirs."

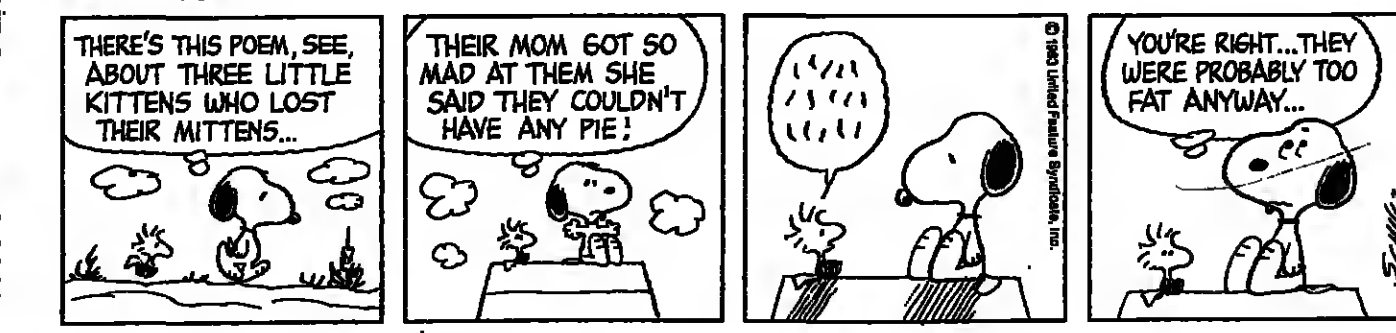
JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME



Answers tomorrow

Yesterday's Jumble: SUGLY GULLY JOBBER SAVAGE
Answer: What those ants at the picnic do—BUG US

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff

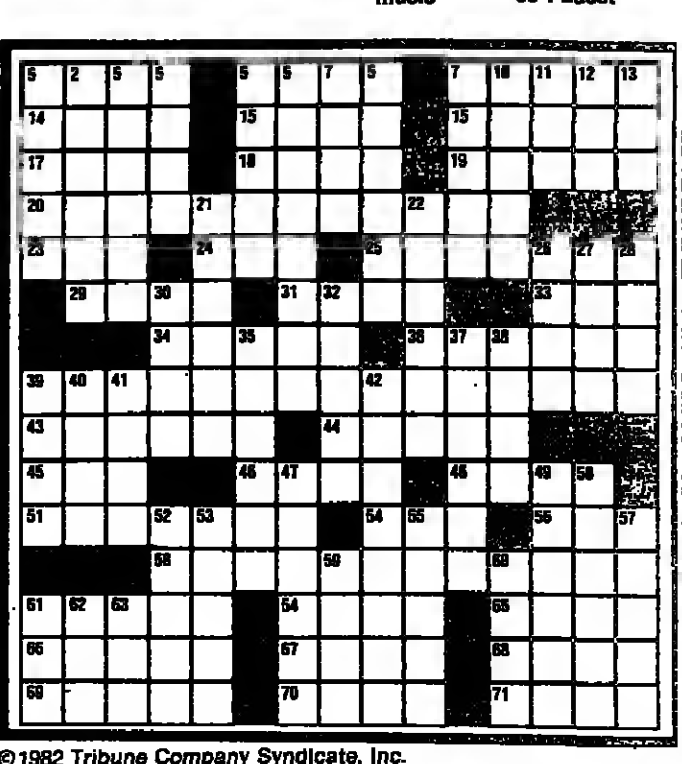


Andy Capp



THE Daily Crossword by James R. Burns

ACROSS	24 Stockman's	51 Make more	13 Pindaric
1 Drenches	25 Bills that	54 Cedar	21 Navaho
5 Mark of a	26 Steam you	55 Snack for	22 8 Kings of
healed	27 up?	56 Beverage	England
wound	28 Close-	57 Snuff for	26 Doubtful
9 Musical	fitting	58 Ma. Muffet	27 Lunch hour
group	31 Shortly	59 Discover	28 Move in a
14 Burden	33 Yeast-dov-	60 Large trees	circle
for Jack	lan Eddie	61 Honey of	30 — Bator
and Jill	34 Rata	62 Home of	32 Loop
15 River in	36 Sought	63 a home	35 Livestock
Brazil	alection as	64 Climb up	feed
16 Egg-shaped	38 American	65 Arch	37 Roused from
17 Sicilian	general	66 Roman road	sleep
volcano	43 Nonetheless	67 Categorizes	38 Zola name
18 Author	44 Lazy —	68 Remainder	39 Disorder
Peton	(food tray)	69 Snare	40 Acknowledge
19 Stop	45 The sun	70 Snare	41 Remove
20 Prepares	46 — Nam	71 Snare	42 Bakery
to sell	48 Author		43 Items
23 Sign of a	Millett		47 Kind of
hit			track meet
			49 Destination
			of HMS
			Bounty
			50 Grid team
			52 School Fr.
			53 Adjusts
			55 Beginning
			57 Those who
			ogle
			58 Wisa herb?
			60 Percy of
			Taylor
			61 Follower
			of FDR
			62 Glacial
			12 Twice, in
			music
			63 Faucet



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WORLD

32 Red-Brigades members jailed for '78 Moro murder

ROME (R) — A Rome court Monday sentenced 32 Red Brigades leftist guerrillas to life imprisonment for the 1978 kidnap and murder of former Prime Minister Aldo Moro and other crimes.

The sentence was read out by assize court president Severino Santapichi at the end of a 10-month trial held in a gymnasium converted into a fortress.

The judgment came close to five years after Mr. Moro was seized near his home on March 16, 1978. The bullet-riddled body of the Christian Democrat leader was found almost two months later in the boot of a car parked in the centre of Rome.

The assassination of Mr. Moro shocked Italy and was conceived by the Red Brigades as a blow to the heart of the state.

Mr. Santapichi, flanked by seven judges, upheld all but two of the life sentences requested by the prosecution.

Among those condemned to life imprisonment was Mario Moretti. Two convicted guerrillas who turned informer have suggested that he masterminded the Moro kidnap.

Others were Nadia Ponti, Prospero Gallinari, Nathalia Ligas and Laura Braghetti, four well-known members of the Red Brigades' hard-line faction. Gallinari is said to have shot Mr. Moro with a sub-machinegun.

The six so-called repentants at the trial received lighter prison

sentences of 16 years or less. They had co-operated with police in tracking down other guerrillas under Italy's so-called "pentiti" (repentants) law offering lighter sentences to informers.

Antonio Savasta and Emilia Libera, two repentants who were involved in the kidnap of U.S. Gen. James Dozier in 1981, were both sentenced to 16 years jail.

Gen. Dozier, whose kidnap was the Brigades' most ambitious operation after the killing of Mr. Moro, was freed by police just over a year ago in the first major blow against the leftist organisation.

Forty of the 63 defendants were present as the verdict was read out. Four are still being sought while the remainder exercised their right not to attend.

Judicial and political officials have said the trial largely failed to explain the kidnapping of Mr. Moro, which took place after he negotiated Italy's first government since 1947 to operate with the support of the powerful Communist Party.

As the sentence was read out, Miss Braghetti hurled abuse at repentant guerrilla Savasta.

"Bastard, you would sell your own mother," she shouted.

The information gathered from repentants has been a major factor in a crackdown over the past year on the guerrillas, who have not mounted a major operation since the kidnap of Gen. Dozier.

Shultz to visit Japan

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz will follow up last week's visit to Washington by Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone by going to Tokyo next weekend for talks on the broad range of issues raised.

U.S. officials said no specific agreements were expected to emerge, but Mr. Shultz and Japanese Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe would review the complex relationship between the two countries and also discuss international issues.

The Washington talks, during which Mr. Nakasone and President Reagan were said to have established a warm rapport, focused on trade and defence problems between the two countries.

The officials said Mr. Shultz was likely to reinforce the twin messages given to Mr. Nakasone—that his moves to strengthen Japan's defences and lift barriers to imports were appreciated but that the Reagan administration

wanted more to be done.

The trip, the second major foray overseas by Mr. Shultz since he became secretary of state, was planned prior to Mr. Nakasone's Washington visit and also includes visits to China, South Korea and Hong Kong.

Firm arrangements for the four-day visit starting on Sunday have yet to be made as they depend on the programme of Japan's parliament, which opened a new session Monday.

While in Washington, Mr. Nakasone cemented Japan's alliance with the United States but left the thorny question of easing Japan's restrictions on beef and citrus fruit imports to working-level discussions.

Mr. Abe told the Japanese Parliament Monday that in his talks with Mr. Shultz he intended to try to develop relations between the two countries "not only in the settlement of specific issues but also taking care not to lose sight of the positive cooperation between Japan and the United States."

Malaysia finds no international links with Soviet embassy attack

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Police investigations have shown that a religious Islamic group claiming responsibility for a shooting incident at the Soviet embassy earlier this month had no international links, Malaysia's deputy prime minister said.

Datuk Musa Hitam, who is also the home minister, told a political meeting in the southern state of Negri Sembilan that police were now trying to trace local leaders and members of the international Muslim Brotherhood organisation.

Police described the incident as an attempt to kill the Soviet ambassador. No one was hurt, but arrests have been made and police said they had not established a motive for the shooting.

But several days later telephone calls to local newspapers claiming responsibility for the shooting spoke of further threats to Soviet embassy personnel.

Two days ago a Soviet Aeroflot airliner was grounded after an anonymous telephone caller claimed a bomb was on board. No bomb was found and the plane left the next day for Moscow via Karachi with about 30 passengers.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
 ♠ 82
 ♥ A
 ♦ KQ62
 ♣ AKQJ3
EAST
 ♠ Void
 ♥ AJ10976
 ♦ 543
 ♣ K554
 ♥ Void
 ♦ 10953
 ♣ A574
SOUTH
 ♠ KQ
 ♥ KQ1097632
 ♦ J
 ♣ 65

The bidding:
 North East South West
 2 ♠ 4 ♠ 6 ♥
 Pass Pass Pass
 Opening lead: Ten of ♠.

We are often asked to give a bidding sequence for freak hands. Usually, we reply quite honestly that there is no right or wrong way to bid those hands. We simply have not had enough experience with eight, nine, or ten-card suits to know how to handle them. A correspondent from abroad swears that this hand was dealt in an Italian tournament, and that the bidding shown actually occurred at the table. Knowing the volatile nature of bridge players, he is probably right.

Certainly, after the two club opening bid, East's jump to four spades cannot be

faulted. And South might have been warned by his wasted values in spades that a heart slam would need some luck. We are inclined to agree with West's double.

Since he could not lead a spade even if he wanted to, West's decision to lead a club is hard to fault. He reasoned that there was a good chance that his partner would be void in clubs and would get a ruff. Logical, but only half right. East was indeed void in clubs; unfortunately, he did not have a trump with which to ruff.

Declarer was quick to seize his opportunity. He took all four of dummy's high clubs, discarding a diamond and a spade from his hand. Next came the king of diamonds. Had East not covered, declarer would have discarded his remaining spade. When East produced the ace, declarer ruffed and entered dummy with the ace of trumps. On the queen of diamonds declarer pitched his remaining spade, and he conceded only one trump trick.

Obviously, declarer would have gone down three had West led a diamond — the defenders would have scored a diamond, a spade, a spade ruff and the king of trumps. Equally obvious is the fact that South's judgment to bid over four spades was correct in one aspect — East would have made four spades, losing only a trump trick and two diamonds.

Radio Solidarity team on trial in court

WARSAW (R) — A Polish military court opened proceedings Monday against 10 activists of Warsaw's underground broadcasting station, Radio Solidarity, the Communist Party newspaper Trybuna Ludu said.

They included Zbigniew Romaszewski, the station's chief organiser, who was captured by security police last summer and his wife Zosia, one of the station's announcers.

The paper said the military court "begins reviewing its indictment against the activists" but did not say what the charges were.

Two other men were arrested last June while carrying a portable transmitter which had been placed on the roofs of tall buildings in central Warsaw.

"This was to ensure that broadcasts were heard well in embassies of Western states which relate their contents to foreign correspondents and Polish-language radio stations (in the West)", Trybuna Ludu said.

Trybuna Ludu said the idea of the radio station independent of state control emerged in the late 1970s among dissidents linked to the Workers Defence Committee (KOR). It named Romaszewski as leading activist of the group.

The newspaper also reported that 18 underground Solidarity activists in the south-west city of Opole were given jail terms from five months to one year for continuing union activity under martial law, including the distribution of anti-state leaflets.

Flying telescope ready to probe frontiers of space

LOS ANGELES (R) — A three-ton, \$80 million "flying telescope" is set to be launched from Vandenberg air base, California, Tuesday to search for unknown stars hidden from earth by dust clouds.

The \$10 kilogramme telescope, a British-U.S.-Dutch project, will be able to track infra-red radiation from giant galaxies with millions of stars from a distance of 32 million light years, a spokesman for the U.S. national aeronautics and space administration said.

The last frontier

"The telescope, called IRAS for Infra-Red Astronomical Satellite, will probe the last frontier of astronomy, the last big chunk of the spectrum on which we have little or no information," he said.

The centre of the Milky Way, which radiates one-tenth of the energy of the entire galaxy but is hidden from earth by large amounts of dust, should become visible to the infra-red telescope, the spokesman said.

The telescope will be launched into a near-polar orbit 900 kilometres above the earth by a delta rocket.

IRAS, 3.7 metres high and 2.1 metres in diameter, will circle the earth every 103 minutes and transmit information to the Rutherford and Appleton

laboratory at Chilton, 32 kilometres south of Oxford, England, twice a day.

Research experts in Chilton will process part of the information and send commands to IRAS for the next part of its journey.

The spokesman said startlight could not penetrate the dust clouds, but infra-red radiation could.

The full information will be sent to the jet propulsion laboratory, part of NASA, in Pasadena, California, for complete processing. The information will be used to help lay out an infra-red sky map.

The Netherlands Aerospace Agency, with the help of an industrial consortium of Fokker and Hollandse Signaalapparaten, was responsible for the design and building of the spacecraft.

Infra-red telescope need a cold environment in which to detect signals and IRAS will carry 475 litres of liquid helium.

A doughnut-shaped cooling vessel surrounding the telescope will keep the instrument at a temperature of minus 455 degrees Fahrenheit (minus 270 degrees centigrade).

Solar panels will supply the 250 watts of power needed to run the satellite's systems.

Project experts expect to complete the survey in about seven months.

California Democratic convention turned into gigantic super show

By Ronald Clarke
 Reuter

SACRAMENTO, California — Bands played "happy days are here again" in a giant California convention hall as 2,000 Democratic Party delegates in paper hats whooped with joy, waved election posters and sent giant clutches of balloons soaring to the ceiling.

The oldest running show in the United States, the presidential election campaign, was on the road again — 22 months before the November, 1984 election.

In the California capital of Sacramento last week, seven Democratic presidential aspirants courted delegates at a state party convention and tried to outdo each other with promises and speeches attacking President Reagan.

The first candidates' exhibition of the 1984 campaign — known in political circles as a "cattle call" — also had plenty of political manoeuvring, attempts at one-upmanship and meetings in "smoke-filled rooms."

It seemed more like the finale of a campaign than a beginning, more like a presidential nominating convention than the minor state party affair it was.

The convention delegates danced into the late hours at parties given by some of the contenders, including former Vice-president Walter Mondale and Sen. John Glenn of Ohio, the former astronaut.

Mr. Mondale is the leading Democratic contender, according to national public opinion polls, followed by Mr. Glenn.

'The magnificent seven'

The "magnificent seven", as the contenders became known at the convention, agreed the 1984 campaign would be the longest and toughest in U.S. history, and also the most expensive.

Although presidential election day is far away, Sen. Dale Bumpers of Arkansas, another of the seven, said he believed he had less than 30 days in which to announce formally whether he is a candidate.

The reason is money. Contenders must gather huge campaign checks to be in the running and latecomers will find much of the available cash already promised to other hopefuls.

"Any candidate with four, five or six million dollars in the bank at the beginning of next year has to be taken seriously," said California Democratic chairman Peter

Reagan to deliver annual address today

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan delivers his annual state of the union address Tuesday to a festive nation concerned over his handling of the recession and allegations of disarray in U.S. policy.

He will appear before a televised joint session of Congress in a political atmosphere that has changed drastically since his last address a year ago.

His power and prestige were then at their highest after he forced through the United States' most radical economic plan in 50 years.

Now his opinion poll ratings have sunk, record post-war unemployment of 10.8 per cent and government deficits weigh down the economy despite a drop

in inflation and interest rates, and his critics accuse him of failed leadership.

Halfway through his four-year term, Mr. Reagan must capture the imagination of Americans if he is to prevail over an increasingly rebellious Congress and bolster his position should he seek re-election next year.

In his speech, the president will outline his legislative priorities for 1983, with specific details left for the new budget he plans to send to Congress on Jan. 31.

His decisions are secret. But he has spoken of expanding job training programmes and White House officials say he is considering ideas such as stand-by taxes depending on the size of future deficits, as well as steps to improve his low

political standing among blacks, women, and the unemployed.

Opposition Democrats, heartened by gains in last November's congressional elections, are ready to take on Mr. Reagan over such issues as unemployment, ballooning federal deficits, huge defence spending and nuclear arms control.

Moderate Republicans, worried about prospects for the 1984 elections, are trying to persuade him to compromise in his conservative economic plan based on deep tax and domestic spending cuts.

Those on the far right say he has already weakened the philosophy that drew their support when he campaigned for the White House in 1980.

Sikhs to join talks at national level meeting

NEW DELHI (R) — Militant Sikh leaders will join crucial all-party talks Tuesday in an effort to reach agreement on their demands for religious and political concessions in the Indian state of Punjab.

The meeting, suggested by national opposition parties, is the first to be held at this level to try to resolve the crisis in the prosperous northern farming state, where most of India's 12 million Sikhs live.

Prime Minister Indira Gandhi is expected to lead the government team at the talks, which resulted from her discussions with opposition leaders on Friday.

A new urgency for reaching a settlement followed a threat by the regional Sikh Akali Dal Party in Punjab to mount a fresh campaign from Wednesday, India's republic day, to press demands that include greater autonomy for the state.

Hundreds of Sikhs have already been arrested in a civil dis-

obedience campaign in Punjab. Political analysts said Mrs. Gandhi was also keen to narrow differences before next month's local elections in Delhi where the Sikhs wield strong influence.

Prime Minister Indira Gandhi is expected to lead the government team at the talks, which resulted from her discussions with opposition leaders on Friday.

Asked by reporters if he was hopeful of a solution, Mr. Long-gowal said he sure his party would achieve its goal.

Negotiations so far with a team of ministers from Mrs. Gandhi's cabinet have failed to settle the religious and political demands because of their implications for Punjab's Hindu community and neighbouring states.

The Sikhs also want economic concessions and additional river water rights, incorporation into Punjab of the city of Chandigarh, at present shared with Haryana State, and a declaration making Amritsar a recognised holy city.

SWAPO chief in Peking

PEKING (R) — Sam Nujoma, president of the South West African People's Organisation (SWAPO), has arrived in Peking for a "formal friendly visit," the Chinese foreign ministry said Monday.

No details were released on the programme for the visit, which came shortly after Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang and Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian held talks in Lusaka with a senior SWAPO official.

Mr. Nujoma caused some surprise in Peking's diplomatic circles when he said in Nairobi last week that SWAPO and China had long had friendly relations and that he himself had visited China many times.

Any such visits took place in secret, one African diplomat told Reuters.

Diplomats in Peking said China's friendliness toward SWAPO and its decision to have diplomatic relations with pro-Soviet Angola were apparently intended hoping to boost its influence in southern Africa at Moscow's expense.

Baker predicts more Congress defence cuts

WASHINGTON (R) — Senate Republican leader Howard Baker has predicted that the U.S. Congress could seek to almost double the \$8-billion cut President Reagan has agreed to make in his 1984 defence budget.

He said in a television interview that the reductions in planned defence spending proposed by Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger and accepted by the president were not enough.

"The Senate will require something more...they are more likely

to be on the plus side of \$15 billion," he said.

The administration proposes to trim \$8 billion from its projected outlay of \$247 billion on defence to help offset a projected 1984 budget deficit of \$200 billion.

Most of the planned savings result from a revision of inflation and fuel cost estimates by the Defence Department, as well as a scaling back of military pay increases. But Mr. Baker said the Pentagon might also have to spread out its expenditures on new

weapons systems.

The senator said Mr. Weinberger was a "bulldozer" who would fight for the funds he believes are necessary.

However, he said he believed Mr. Weinberger understood there were likely to be cuts in his budget whether he agreed or not.

"If we are ever going to get the budget under control we are going to have to show a willingness to sacrifice in almost every sector," he added.

S.E. Asia concerned about refugees

SINGAPORE (R) — South East Asian countries have expressed concern over Western countries sharply reducing the number of Indochina refugees they are accepting, a senior United Nations official said Monday.

Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Singapore representative of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), said, however, this did not give cause for alarm because of a steady decline in the number of "boat people" leaving Vietnam.

Most Western nations, including the United States, had cut their resettlement quotas and imposed tougher conditions for selecting Indochina refugees from so-called first asylum countries in the Asia-Pacific region, he said.

The never-ending flow of these

refugees, current world recession and other domestic social and economic problems appeared to be the main reasons for the growing Western reluctance to accept the "boat people," Asian diplomatic sources said.

But resettlement was keeping pace with arrivals, Dr. Tharoor told Reuters in an interview. The number of "boat people" who fled their Communist homeland last year was only a fifth of the 206,000 at the peak of the exodus in 1979.

The number reaching South East Asian centres last year totalled 43,860, compared with 74,754 in 1981 and 75,833 in 1980, the U.N. official said.

A total of 44,573 Indochina refugees had been resettled in 1982, about half the number given

new homes in Western countries the year before. The 1980 figure was 154,872 refugees and 133,847 the previous year.

About 44,000 were still in camps throughout the region, from Japan to Indonesia. Hong Kong had 12,600 "boat people" waiting to be resettled — the largest number in one centre.

Dr. Tharoor said there had been a dramatic decline in arrivals from Indochina this month, perhaps due to the monsoon season and the suspension of search-and-rescue operations by ships belonging to Western humanitarian organisations.

The last mercy ship, the French vessel Le Goelo, ceased its activities in the South China Sea in November.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Poll shows Western distrust of both superpower leaders

NEW YORK (R) — Many West Europeans distrust the policies of both President Reagan and Soviet leader Yuri Andropov on nuclear arms control, according to an opinion poll published here. The poll in Newsweek magazine said 43 per cent of the West Germans, 40 per cent of the Dutch, 33 per cent of the British and 24 per cent of the French in the survey said that they trusted neither of the two leaders. It also said 57 per cent of the West Germans, 53 per cent of the Dutch, 45 per cent of the British and 43 per cent of the French favoured moves towards neutralism in the East-West conflict.

Church group accused of abetting violence

NEW YORK (R) — The World Council of Churches (WCC) and the U.S. National Council of Churches have been accused of giving millions of dollars of left-wing, sometimes violent groups in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The charge was made in a documentary aired over the American CBS television network in its regular "60 minutes" programme. It said the Geneva-based world council had raised \$5.5 million since 1970 to help groups such as the Mozambique Liberation Front (Frelimo), the Patriotic Front in Zimbabwe, the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) in Namibia (South West Africa) and guerrillas in Angola—all when they were openly violent.

Dacca lawyers protest government policies

DACCA (R) — Bangladesh supreme court lawyers Monday charged that the country's military rulers were undermining the rule of law and the independence of the judiciary and called for a return to democracy. "The constitution stands suspended, citizens are being deprived of their fundamental rights, while the rule of law and the independence of judiciary are being undermined by measures taken in the name of decentralisation," they said in a statement. The statement issued after a meeting of the supreme court bar association said the lawyers would support any movement for the restoration of democracy.

Sudan investigates attack near border

KHARTOUM (R) — Thirteen people were killed and three injured by gunmen who attacked a railway station in the southern Sudanese town of Aweil, the army said. The attackers had not been identified, an army spokesman said, and there was no immediate indication of the motive for the attack, which took place last Tuesday. The official Sudan news agency said security forces had launched a search for the attackers in the area around Aweil, which is located close to the Sudanese border with the Central African Republic, about 950 kilometres south of Khartoum.

Ugandan guerrillas massacre civilians

KAMPALA (R) — More than 30 people were killed and 14 were wounded when armed men, believed to be anti-government guerrillas, opened fire on a passenger bus some 42 kilometres north of Kampala at the weekend, the newspaper Uganda Post said Monday. The attack took place between the villages of Busura and Kalule on a main road leading to the provincial town of Goulou, the newspaper said. Two weeks ago, another bus was ambushed and seven passengers killed on the same road. In that incident troops travelling on the bus drove off the attackers killing several men. Survivors of the latest shooting told the Uganda Post that the ambush took place when a passenger asked the driver to stop in an isolated spot between the two villages. The survivors said they had escaped unhurt by hiding under the bus. They said several people had been taken prisoner and tied up by the attackers but had then been shot by their captors soon afterwards. The survivors said the bus contained only civilians.